IT INT

Friday 7 November 1997

45p (IR50p) No 3,448

TODAY'S NEWS

yet again

The Bank of England annoyed business, caught the financial markets unawares and brought the next rise in mortgage costs a bit closer yesterday when it increased interest rates to their highest level for five years. But the ritual complaints could not disguise the fact that the Bank's move under the new arrangements was a gentle application of the economic brakes. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee pushed interest rates a quarter point higher to 7.25 per cent yesterday, the fifth increase since I May. The cost of borrowing is now at its highest since the aftermath of the exchange rate crisis in 1992

Even so, the big lenders held off increasing mortgage rates yesterday after the Nationwide and the Bradford and Bingley, the two biggest remaining mutual building societies, flung the gauntlet down to their competitors by promising to keep their loan rates unchanged at just under 8 per cent for now.

cach

Brian Davis, chief executive of the Nationwide, said: "We can afford to let borrowers enjoy Christmas." But he warned that the society would probably have to follow the Bank of England's lead if it raises rates again in the New Year.

Many City analysts were surprised by yesterday's move because they had expected the recent stockmarket turbulence to delay the rise in rates. Some reckoned, too, that policy was already tight enough to slow the economy to a steadier pace.

But the Bank's statement concluded another "modest" move was needed to keep underlying inflation on course for 2.5 per cent. It said the economy had been growing at an unsustainable rate.

Business reaction to yesterday's increase ranged from "slightly disappointed" to "concerned". Andrew Higginson, chair of the British Retail Consortium's economics committee, said: "It was a rise too far." There was no sign of overheating on Britain's high streets, he said.

The CBI expressed regret about the Bank's decision, but chief economist Kate Barker acknowledged that the tight jobs market did raise concerns about future inflation pressure. The Bank's announcement pointed to evidence of skill shortages as one reason for its decision.

The loudest complaints came from exporters, alarmed that high interest rates are keeping the pound painfully strong. Graham Mackenzie, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, said: "Exporters, already suffering reduced margins and loss of market share, will continue to be hurt."

- Diane Coyle, Economics Editor City reaction, page 22

Smog at 3-year high

Britain's biggest cities have been experiencing smog just as bad as that in Paris last month when public transport was free and half the cars were forced off the road. Experts say the past few days have seen the dirtiest and most dangerous pollution for three years. Yet the Government has issued no warning. Page 7

Isaiah Berlin dies

Sir Isaiah Berlin, Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, the celebraced philosopher, historian, diplomat and political theorist, has died. He was 88. One of the most brilliant scholars of his generation, he has been described as Britain's greatest thinker. He was also a compelling speaker, and an amusing raconteur. Page 5; Obituary, page 18

Bentley to be cleared

More than four decades after being hanged for the murder of a policeman during a bungled robbery. Derek Bendey is likely to be cleared of murder posthumously. It is a considerable victory for the Bentley family.

SEEN & HEARD

the may be the very embodiment of an American Christmas, but the cheery, white-bearded, red suited man is past it. Toys 'R' Us, America's largest toy retailer, is dirching Santa Claus, the New York Post said. He will not appear on their catalogues or stores this year. Instead, they are taking Christmas into the information age. References to Santa are being replaced with a toy registry for children. Instead of carefully penning their "Dear Santa" letters and dropping them off at stores, children can use hand-held scanners to register for



WEATHER The Eye, page 30 TELEVISION The Eye, page 32 CROSSWORDS Page 30 and

the Eye, page 29 Web address: http://www.

Best of Blair's Britain? Images and icons Bank raises rates meant to impress the French today



Bienvenue à la jeune Grande-Bretagne de Tony Blair! British-French summits generally take place in the oak-panelled and gilded silence of old country houses, like Ditchley Park in Oxfordshire, or at the equally traditional and splendid Lancaster House in London.

Mr Blair has ordered a change of tack, however. In keep-

the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, is being held on looking atmosphere and has had the empty floor of the stainthe 38th floor of the huge Canary Wharf tower in London's Docklands development.

It is not only home to newspapers like The Independent, the Mirror and the Daily Telegraph, but is generally considered an ambiguous monument to the Thatcher years. The ing with his "young Britain" rhetoric, today's meeting with Prime Minister, however, likes it for its breezily forward-

s steel tower fitted out with showcase examples of new British design, art, furniture and textiles especially for the occasion. The idea is to show the French that the British now do it just as well, if not better. Here Sir Terence Conran, the restaurateur and style guru, sits surrounded by glimpses from the summit rooms.

IRA hardliners quit: but will it mean violence?

The significance of the resignation of several senior members of the IRA was being played down last night.

But, writes our correspondent, the breach represents the most serious and most public rift within the organisation's ranks for well over a decade.

At least two key members of the IRA leadership are reported to have quit the organisation in a disagreement over the Irish peace process, it was confirmed last night. Security and political sources were play-

ing down the significance, pointing out that the dissidents have no apparent intention of linking up with other republican factions such as the Continuity IRA. None the less, it poses fundamental

questions about the control which Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and their supporters exercise over the republican movement as a whole. Observers will be watching anxiously for any signs within the IRA or Sinn Fein of wider dissatisfaction with the peace process.

At the moment there is no indication that this parting of the ways is anything but peaceful. Republicans speak of those who have resigned as "stepping back". rather than defecting to other groups or planning to set up in opposition.

But, in the past, so many republican diseveryone will be watching for any return

While the current security assessment is that Messrs Adams and McGuinness remain firmly in command of the movement,

those who have departed were undoubtedly central figures within the IRA. One is a Co Monaghan man who is believed to have been chief-of-staff of the organisation for more than a decade. He reportedly relinquished that position about a year ago but remained a member of the

seven-strong army council. The second dissident, while not a member of the army council, held the key post of quartermaster-general with responsibility for the IRA's weaponry.

He and his girlfriend are both said to have stepped down from the army executive, a background committee which oversees decisions of the army council. Secunity sources say claims that anywhere between 20 and 200 IRA activists have

BY DAVID **MCKITTRICK**

resigned are wildly exaggerated. There is no suggestion that the former quartermaster has taken any of the terrorist arsenal with him.

Security sources suspect, however, that there may have been a lower-level leakage of IRA material to the Continuity IRA. which has carried out several bombing attacks in recent months.

In at least one of these the bombers used Semiex, a plastic explosive which has agreements have led to violent feuding that in the past been the almost exclusive preserve of the IRA. The speculation is that someone in the IRA has been unofficially passing it on to the Continuity IRA.

taken place at a recent important IRA velopment as "very worrying".

meeting in Donegal, which one source characterised as a meeting called by the republican leadership to deal with dissent in the ranks.

Much of the criticism is said to have crystallised around the action of Sinn Fein leaders in announcing their acceptance of the so-called Mitchell principles. These commit participants in the Stormont multi-party talks to the use of exclusively peaceful means as well as "the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations". Signing up to such sentiments was a pre-requisite for Sinn Fein's entry into talks but it may have proved the last straw for the dissidents.

The last major split in the movement dates back to 1986, when more militant elements broke away to form a party known as Republican Sinn Fein. Ever since then the Adams-McGuinness leadership has gone to great lengths to avoid splits in the organisation, and to bring their entire grouping along in the peace process, which in republican terms has always been a highly sensitive undertaking.

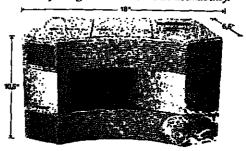
Irish government sources said they were not unduly alarmed about the resignations, pointing out that the ceasefire seemed secure and that the dissidents had not linked up with any other group.

Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, said was bound to be concerned about any d ficulties which might jeopardise the pea process, adding: "But we are talking about a relatively small number of pe ple. We should focus our efforts on the talks. People should understand that if v are to have any political progress and pear on this island the 'armed struggle' pla no part in that."

The former Taoiseach and Fine Ga The resignations are believed to have leader. John Bruton, described the d

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COLUMN ONE

Shadow of Guinness curse looms again

The curse of the House of Guinness may be about to strike again. On the eve of publication of a long-awaited history of the Distillers' scandal by Lord Moyne, otherwise known as Jonathan Guinness of the Irish beverages dynasty, an investment company which he controls has been suspended by the Swedish stock exchange.

The Serious Fraud Office is now set to probe the affairs of Trustor, the Swedish based investment company in which the Tory peer acquired a controlling stake last June.

An investigation by the Fraud Intelligence Branch of the Swedish police in Stockholm has already begun into the alleged disappearance of £49m from the company's assets. The Swedish authorities have asked the SFO to establish whether funds were transferred from Sweden to an ac-

count in London, and if so to find where the money has gone since. Sources at the SFO said that it would be able to deploy its special powers under section two of the Criminal Justice Act to try and follow the



CONTENTS

Leading stories

Environment news

Isaiah Berlin

News

Revolution

World news

Clinton scandal

The way we live

European news

movement of the money. As a result of the "serious allegations", the Swedish stock exchange suspended trading in Trustor shares.

The investigation could not be worse timed for Lord Moyne (left) with the imminent publication of Requiem for a Family Business, his insider's account of the Distillers-Guinness takeover battle in the 1980s.

in the book, Lord Moyne, 67, a non-executive of the Guinness drinks group from 1961 to 1988, is set to reopen some old wounds.

He is unlikely, however, to criticise too strongly the actions of disgraced former Guinness chairman Ernest Saunders, who

is still on friendly terms with the peer and was allowed to see a draft manuscript of the book.

Lord Moyne is the eldest son of Lady Diana Mitford and the stepson of the British fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley.

A former chairman of the Monday Club, the right-wing pressure group, his previous publications include Shoe: The Odyssey of a Sixties Survivor. Lord Moyne's Scandinavian business ambitions have not been confined to Sweden. In July, he tried unsuccessfully to gain control of the Finnish sports company. Amer. which owns the famous Wilson brand.

He had been virtually unknown in the region until this summer when he spent around £20m to obtain a 52 per cent share of Trustor.

Despite being normally outspoken, he is declining to comment on the Swedish investigation. His publisher said yesterday that he was out of the country but expected to return to Britain today. The Old Etonian admits he lacks the business acumen of some of his Guinness forefathers - he once sold a Gainsborough portrait because he was "pushed" for cash - and has an interesting view on why the Distillers' scandal was allowed to happen. "The City got too lax. Distillers thought we were still gentlemen. Unfortunately, they had another think coming," he said in August.

No doubt, he will be hoping that the authorities will be suitably rigorous in attempting to discover what happened to the Trustor millions.

Politics

Features

Comment

Crossword

Weather

Television

and Radio

Business

Sport

Leader, Letters

22-26

27-30

The Eye, 29

The Eye, 30

The Eye, 31-32.



Bob Marley who was elevated to the world stage by Chris Blackwell (inset)

Music boss Blackwell leaves his beloved Island

Chris Blackwell, the founder of Island Records and one of the legendary names in British music, is leaving the label, now owned by multinational compa-

In a terse statement issued last night PolyGram announced "the termination of the agreement under which Mr Blackwell's services were provided to the music and film operations of PolyGram's Island Entertainment Group". A spokeswoman said there would be no further comment.

Industry sources were speculating that the marriage of a multinational company and a supremely talented individualist had proved a difficult one, and 60-year-old Mr Blackwell will now concentrate on his chain of hotels in Miami and Jamaica.

Mr Blackwell founded Island Records in 1962 after selling Jamaican records from the boot of his car. He championed music from Jamaica for the rest of his career, most notably the reggae star Bob Marley, who died of cancer in 1981. He became a close friend of the Marley family. But Marley was not alone among Island's landmark signings. The Spencer Davis

Group with Stevie Winwood in the Sixties, Free in the 0 Seventies and U2 in the Eighties and beyond, alongside Britpop idols Pulp as well as The Cranberries, were all signed to Island.

PolyGram bought Island Records in 1989 for \$272m (£165m), keeping Mr Blackwell on as chairman of Island Entertainment Group.

Alain Levy, president and chief executive of Polygram said in a statement issued in New York last night that Mr Blackwell would also be leaving the board of management of PolyGram, He added: "Mr Blackwell's departure will not affect the status of Island as a stand-alone unit within the Polygram group of labels." A company spokesman refused to comment on rumours that Mr Blackwell had re-

ceieved \$20m in severance pay.

Mr Blackwell was not available for comment last night. Writers at Music Week, the weekly journal of the music industry, described him yesterday as one of the most significant figures operating in the record company world in the last half century.

- David Lister, Arts News Editor

Editor cleared of incitement to kill birds

gling newspaper incited readers to kill cormorants, a protected species, was thrown out of court glers and fish farmers. yesterday after magistrates decided there was no case to answer.

Keith Higginbottom, 39, former editor of the Angling Times, case] at all has to be questioned tain it was a clear incitement to denied two charges under the as it was a serious challenge to people to kill a protected species. Countryside and Wildlife 1981 Act journalistic independence and that his edition of 4 December free speech which is the hallmark ing and we just hope people are 1996 would encourage the killing

of cormorants. After the hearing at Peterborough, the paper's current editor John Kelly criticised the decision to press charges. He also vowed to continue the campaign to take

A claim that the editor of an an- cormorants off the protected list. alleged that it contained 13 spe-The birds have been driven inland cific messages about the need to to feed, incurring the wrath of an-

> was an "absolute waste of money". of a democratic and free country."

> The edition which led to the charges being brought carried the headline "These birds must be dead cormorants. The prosecution

kili cormorants.

Kevin Saunders, of the League Mr Kelly said the prosecution 'Against Cruel Sports, said: "When we saw the article we were very "The decision to bring [the worried about it and we were cer-The outcome is very disappointmore responsible in the future."

An RSPCA spokeswoman added: "These birds are protected and even if someone believes killed" opposite a picture of a they are causing a problem, it is masked, armed man - and four not up to any individual to decide what should be done.

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No sympathy for Louise

Louise Woodward should spend at least 15 years in prison for killing baby Matthew Eappen, his mother said yesterday.

Deborah Eappen, who said she planned to become a child protection campaigner, added that she felt no sympathy for Woodward. born in 1996 is 80 years. For her

ME, ARM IN ARM ...

TALKING ... LAUGHING

UPDATE

ENVIRONMENT

Pollution curbs could save 8 million

A global effort to cut air pollution by reducing the burning of coal, oil and other fossil fuels could prevent eight million deaths worldwide over

the first 20 years of the next century, scientists say.

The Working Group on Public Health and Fossil Fuel Combustion, an interdisciplinary body funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, compared two future scenarios to assess the likely effects of greenhouse gas emissions on global health. In one, dubbed "Business-as-Usual", they assumed trends in energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions would continue unchanged. In the other, they assumed European Union agreed targets for a 15 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions for developed countries below their 1990 level by 2010 would be met. Similar targets for developing countries require them to cut their emissions by 10 per cent below. what they would otherwise be in 2010.

The group say in the Lancet that 700,000 avoidable deaths will occur annually by 2020 as a result of exposure to additional particulate matter pollution under the Business-as-Usual forecast compared with the EU-- Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor backed climate policy scenario.

LEISURE

Firework sales lose their spark



Bonfire Night could be losing its appeal due to new legislation banning the sale of fireworks to under-18s and the increasing popularity of US-style Hallowe'en celebrations.

Howard Garman, of Celebration Fireworks, said: "Initial figures show that sales are down 73 per cent on last year. That is quite a big drop for us but other people are likely to be well below that figure, probably 65 per cent is a truer figure across the country." Ron Rapley, of Standard Fireworks, also said that sales this year had been disappointing.

Some manufacturers believe that 5 November celebrations are being muted because more people are putting their energies into Hallowe'en. Hamleys toy shop, in central London, said that it had sold more monster masks, costumes and other paraphernalia this year than ever before.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

TOURIST RATES

Water companies making progress

The performance of water companies continues to improve, Ian Byatt, Director General of the industry watchdog Ofwat, said yesterday.

Companies were measured on how they deal with supply failures, metered bills, response to billing contracts, customer complaints, water pressure and in some cases, sewer flooding. Mr Byatt said: "I am glad to report that the overall performance of the companies continues to improve. This reflects changes in operational procedures and, in relation to pressure problems and sewer flooding, the use of efficiency savings to finance additional investment. For some companies, however, aspects of their service are below that which customers might reasonably expect. In these cases I have asked the company concerned to tell me its plans for improvement. In some cases I have asked the company to set targets for improvements."

Australia (dollars) 2.32 Italy (lira) 2754 Austria (schillings) 19.67 Japan (yen) 203.7 Belgium (francs) Malta (lira) 57.78 0.62 to serve less than 15 years for Netherlands (guilders) Canada (\$) killing Matthew is unfair," she said. Cyprus (pounds) 0.82 Norway (kroner) 11.51 Dr Eappen, who carries a pho-Denmark (kroner) 10.72 Portugal (escudos) 284.2 tograph of her son taken when he France (francs) 9.36 Spain (pesetas) 235.6 was dying in hospital, was speak-Germany (marks) 2.80 Sweden (kroner) 12.31 ing to the New York Daily News as Greece (drachmei) 443.4 Switzerland (francs) the 19-year-old au pair waits to 294,906 Hong Kong (\$) 12.58 Turkey (lira) hear if the judge will overturn her ireland (punts) 1.08 USA (\$) 1.64 "The life expectancy of a baby boy conviction, or reduce it to manslaughter, or order a retrial. 7.30 FOR 8 by Chris Priestley THERE WAS A YOUNG I FELT SUDDENLY THE WEEKEND IN

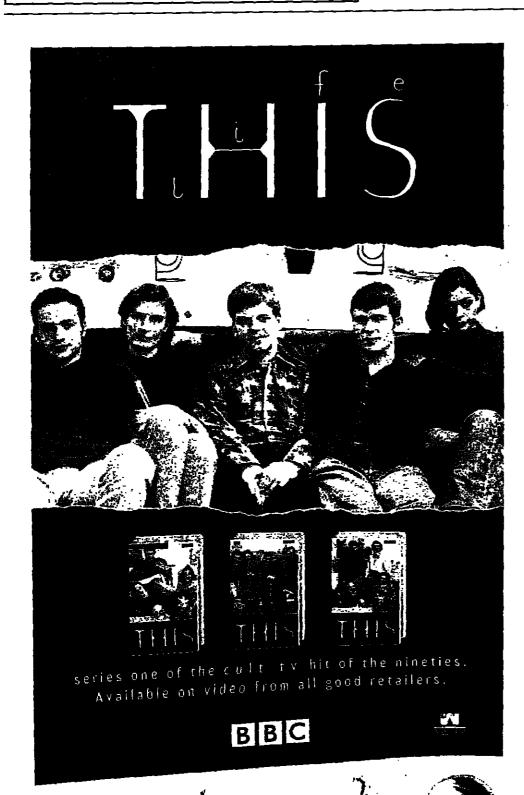
EVERYWHERE

THE SWEET

SWEET SMELL

OF CORRUPTION

AND DECAY





The Culture S

Chris Smith Fisher a dress over remarks BBC's Newship programme. tells our arts : editor, David L it's all the fault hectoring Kim

Kirsty Wark

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BRIGHTON WASN'T

A TOTAL SUCCESS

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3/LEADING STORIES

THE INDEPENDENT FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1997

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Newsnight presenter gets blame in opera fiasco

The Culture Secretary Chris Smith has given his junior minister Mark Fisher a dressing down over remarks made on **BBC's Newsnight** programme. Mr Smith tells our arts news editor, David Lister, that it's all the fault of that hectoring Kirsty Wark.

Spark

g progress

An interview on BBC 2's Newsnight programme has led to public embarrassment for the government's culture ministers. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has hauled his hitherto failsafe arts minister Mark Fishет over the coals for saying on programme that the government had already decided the future of the Royal Opera



Kirsty Wark: gave Mark Fisher the last word

Mr Fisher's statement was embarrassing for both Mr Smith and Sir Richard Eyre, the former director of the National Theatre, whom Mr Smith has asked to head a review body on the ROH's future.

But with commendable frankness Mr Smith excused his junior by telling The Independent that Mr Fisher had been "under pressure from two antagonistic fellow interviewees and a rather hasty and pressing Kirsty Wark."

Mr Smith's oblique tribute to Ms Wark - namely that she can reduce an experienced politician to blurting out inexactitudes - should confirm her

Paxmanesque qualities for any who may have doubted them. A BBC spokesman said last night: "This is rather a bizarre excuse. Kirsty actually gave Mark Fisher the last word. He had lashings of time to make his points. Kirsty is one of our top

presenters and very experienced. She doesn't cut people Mr Smith said yesterday: "Mark was wrong in what he said on Newsnight and has been told very severely by me that he was wrong. I have been very clear in saying my proposals were proposals and not a fait accompli. My purpose, more than

about the issue." "I have said to Mark very clearly you should not have said that' and he said, 'I know, I know. As soon as it was over I knew I'd said the wrong thing'."

anything else, is to shock every-

one into thinking seriously

Mr Fisher has been Labour's arts spokesman during the Nineties, the main spokesman in opposition before the 1992 election and after that a number two. He said on Newsnight on Tuesday: "We have asked him [Sir Richard Eyre] to look at our plan. If he can come up with some improvement on it, well and good .. Let's see what he comes up with, but we are convinced that he supports our plan and will make it work."

It is understood that this was badly received by Sir Richard Eyre, who is heading the Government's review and was under the impression he would be delivering his own conclusions, not rubber stamping a government decision that the Royal Opera House become a receiving House and the English National Opera leave the London Coliseum and perform there as equal partners with the

Yesterday Sir Richard sent an open letter on the subject to all interested parties in which he says: "Your views on [Mr Smith's proposal] would be welcome, but I will explore other options and you should not feel constrained from offering views on different ways



Antony Worrall Thompson: 'Prison food is very monotonous. There's no imagination involved. It's just stodge'

Could you feed desperate men on £1.52 a day?

tion involved. It's just stodge,

isn't very healthy."

which may be quite filling but

by the National Audit Office,

visited 12 prisons in England

Researchers, commissioned

The daily diet of an inmate in one of Britain's jails costs just £1.52. Benjamin Todd examines a new report on the quality of prison catering and asks a leading chef to devise an alternative menu.

Meal times are a "potential flash point" in Britain's prisons with poor quality food causing disturbances and violence, according to a report published today. But food can also provide a vital method of main

taining order. The study examined how prison cooks coped with having only £1.52 to spend on provid-Royal Opera and Royal Ballet. ing prisoners with three meals a day, it concludes that most of the food was "acceptable".

> The Independent, however. has obtained the services of restaurateur and television chef, Antony Worrall Thompson, who considers the jail menus dull and monotonous. For the same money he has devised a special menu that in

A TASTE OF TWO MENUS

A sample prison menu

One boiled egg or cereal or porridge. Two pieces of toast, I sachet of margarine and

Macaroni cheese or individual quiche or sausage roll with one type of potato (boiled, jacket, roasted or chips) and one type of seasonal vegetable (e.g. peas, or carrots) Sometimes followed by a bun.

Baked potato and cheese or individual chicken and pineapple with one type of potato and one type of seasonal vegetable.

All meals are served with tea or tap water. One sachet of coffee is available during breakfast.

Cost per day £1.52 per person.

cludes Thai style stir-fry cut-

tlefish, Rajastani rabbit curry,

compared with baked potato

the prison menu was far too

boring, "Prison food is very mo-

Mr Worrall Thompson feit

and cheese and sausage roll.

Antony Worrall Thompson's **Alternative**

Breakfast

Herb mushrooms and kidneys on toast. Extra

Chicken tagine with couscous or vegetarian

Side dishes like salad, potatoes, rice and bread.

Stir-fried pork ribbons with string beans and basil, garlic and chilli sauce or Thai-style stir-fry cuttlefish or salmon and dill fish cake or

Side dishes like salad, potatoes, rice and bread.

Cost also at £1.52 per day per person, based on a £7,600 budget for a prison with 500 inmates.

notonous. There's no imaginaand Wales. The Prison Service spends £60m a year on catering, half of which goes on the cost of ingredients. They agreed

that prison catering had im-

over small portions, non-existent meal choices, food being cooked too far in advance and large time gaps between meals. At Woodhill Prison near Milton Keynes, inmates were supposed to be given 4oz of meat or protein per meal, but only re-

ceived one-and-a-half ounces. Mr Worrali Thompson, who is the cook on BBC2's Food and Drink programme brought some healthy living to the menu. "A lot of the prisoners work out when they're behind bars," he said. "So they don't just want fatty pies."

For breakfast, out went the traditional portidge and boiled eggs. They were replaced with kidney. "It's a healthy and tasty start to the day." He also added a Moroccan dish - Chicken Tagine. "In my experience, prisoners love spicy food," he explained.

However, Mr Worrall Thompson could not afford to use real basil and garlic with the stir-fried pork ribbons. "But the powdered type would be fine" he said. His menu added up to £1.25 per person. This left 27p proved since the early 1990s. spare for side dishes like salad, But they expressed concern potatoes, rice and bread.

TOMORROW IN THE INDEPENDENT

ISM Sweater girls



lennie Lee and the awkward squad

For men's eyes only: treasures of Mount Athos

TIMEOFF

Monaco, New York and the Ferry 'cross the Mersey

YOUR MONEY Smart

banking for top people

THEEYE Complete TV

talkshareplus" lets two or more people share one Talk Plan and one bill. You get separate phones with different numbers, share more inclusive minutes, get cheaper calls and pay just one connection fee. You also receive Orange Care worth over £50 on each phone, which includes 12 months free insurance, 24 hour replacement and 3 year warranty. For more information call Orange direct on 0800 80 10 80 or visit www.orange.co.uk

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512k cache mentory.
PCI graphics card.
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14" monitor. Was E799.
MODEL: LCM166+. £699

SAVE E100 PACKARD BELL 166MHz Pentium Processor-with MMX Technology. 16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 20 speed multimedia. PO graphics card. PREE Over £1000 worth of software.¹ Was £1199. MODEL: 9029.

with MMX Technology.
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5/ISAIAH BERLIN

Sir Isaiah Berlin (pictured above), don, diplomat, historian. political theorist and philosopher, died on Wednesday at the age of 88. Rupert Cornwell gives just a taste of the life and impact of an intellectual lion of the 20th century.

Even without the academic accomplishments which adorned it, Isaiah Berlin's was a life that encapsulated a century - from an early childhood in Riga and St Petersburg to England and Oxford, to Washington and then back to Moscow as a diplomat, then Oxford once more, and the summits of the English establishment as a director of the Royal Opera House, and the presidency of the British Academy,

But he will be hest remembered for two things: his scholarship and his ability to communicate his scholarship. In Berlin three strands wondrously fused; a Russian fascination with ideas, a sense of community derived from his Jewish origins, and a devotion to tolerance, the dignity of the individual, and freedom taken from his adopted country of England. And for those who knew him and studied under him, his finest pulpit was the lecture rooms of postwar

Isaiah Berlin was the university's in-house legend, a Pavarotti at the rostrum of learning, a multilingual, multidisciplinary force of nature. For those who listened to him, the memory is indelible - the glittering, tumbling torrent of words as speech struggled to keep up with the Catherine wheel of ideas that was his nality of his mind, made you mind. He was once measured feel, if only for an instant, that at 400 words a minute, twice suddenly everything was clear. the normal rate. Whether it was total colightenment or in-











The life of Isaiah Berlin, pictured with Sir Yehudi Menuhin (right), encapsulated a century, from the Russian revolution to Fascism to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Photographs: AP/Sidney Harris

able: "Unintelligible, in several languages," AL Rowse once remarked, only part in jest. But the sheer sweep and wit of the man, the richness and origi-

Berlin has not escaped revisionism's barbs. For today's

longer required reading. So, some start to wonder, was he really a unique genius? Or was he merely an inflated Oxford cult figure, a Grade One listed monument of the high table, unique only in that gift the English intelligentsia prize above every other - of holding forth at the drop of a hat, ef-

humorously, about any subject, pher to have read his 1959 esunder the sun? He could do that - and how. But he was not just clever. He was also wise. He offered a remarkable

combination of historian and philosopher, a student of ideas who also shaped ideas. Berlin is famous above all as a liberal. You did not have to be an

say "Two Concepts of Liberty" and be disquieted and enthrailed by the distinction drawn between "freedom from" and "freedom to" - the one the justificatory claim of the Communism which he loathed, the other all too easily a licence to tyrannise.

is less admired, and Berlin himhistory", that nothing was as self admitted in his last pubdangerous as blind pursuit of lished interview, in last a political or philosophical month's issue of Prospect magsystem. He had seen these azine, that "I should have evils at first hand: the overthrow of tsar Nicholas II and made more of the horrors of negative liberty, and all that has Lenin's coup, as a child in St led to." No one, however, Petersburg, and the ebb and would challenge the central lesflow of the Second World War son he drew from "this most from the British embassy in

patches were some of Churchill's favourite wartime

Above all, perhaps, he recognised that in an imperfect world good was divisible, that noble intentions often conflicted, that the most intractable disputes are where both contestants are right. From that flowed a special skill, of illuminating each side of an argument. He was a mesmerising raconteur - but "at the opposite extreme from those ... who use their gifts to monopolise the conversation". wrote the philosopher Alasdair Macintyre. "Berlin's splendid performances enable us to listen more intelligently to other voices, not just to his own. How much we owe him."

How much indeed. More conclusively than any other, he proved that playfulness, laughter and a sense of fun could survive a fellowship of All Souls at the age of 23. He was, wrote his biographer, Michael Ignatieff, "the rarest of creatures, a wise man who is also ioveable".

All this will make him irreplaceable. Each generation throws up just a handful like him; Andre Malraux, George Kennan, John Maynard Keynes are a few names which come to mind. We should be thankful that

this particularly coruscating specimen fetched up on our shores. England, he once said, "is the best country in the world: the least corrupt, the least cruel, the least liable to enormities". Pace the trumpeting of New Labour, these days this self-doubting country tends not to see itself so. Let us therefore return the compliment. Berlin's favourite quotation is a line by Immanuel Kant: "From the crooked timber of humanity, no straight thing was ever made." If that is true, then no one was more adept at explaining and ironing out the twists, gnarls and contortions

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Radiation workers in child cancer link

A study of workers exposed to radiation shows they are more likely to have children who develop leukaemia. But their increased risk is not linked to radiation exposure. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, explains how the findings effectively dispel the fears of a link which surfaced 15 years ago, but leave questions about the causes of childhood leukaemia unanswered.

Workers in nuclear and other industries who are exposed to radiation have a 77 per cent higher risk of fathering a child who develops leukaemia, according to one of the largest studies yet conducted.

However, the findings by the Childhood Cancer Research Group at Oxford University, show that the risk of having a child with leukaemia was not linked with the size of the ra-

lowest or zero doses. The study, published in the British Medical Journal, is the most definitive so far to counter the 15-yearold hypothesis that living near to or working in a nuclear power station increases the risk of cancer.

Alarm over a link between nuclear power and leukaemia was triggered in 1983 with the broadcast of the Yorkshire Television documentary. The Nuclear Laundry, which claimed that the high level of childhood leukaemia in the Cumbrian village of Seascale was linked with the nearby nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield. The programme's claims

gained scientific credibility following publication of a study, also in the BMI, by the respected cancer epidemiologist Martin Gardner, which appeared to show that exposure of men to radiation before conception increased the risk of leukaemia in their offspring. Exposure to radiation, it was suggested, might damage the genetic material in the men's sperm.

The BMJ describes the "Gardner hypothesis" as one of the most important papers it has published in the last 15

and abroad, no group has ever succeeded in replicating its findings.

The new study, led by Dr Gerald Draper, director of the Childhood Cancer Research Group, "almost finishes" the Gardner hypothesis, the BMI says. It concludes that the most likely explanation for the increased risk among radiation workers is exposure to infection resulting from mixing of the population.

This theory suggests that childhood leukaemia may be a rare reaction to infection which is more common when there is a big influx of people to an isolated rural community, as when a nuclear power station is being built. Although the 77 per cent in-

crease in risk for radiation-exposed workers looks high, the absolute risk is still small. There are 6.5 cases of leukaemia and the related condition non-Hodgkin's lymphoma per 10,000 children under 15, and the study authors estimate that this is raised to 11.9 per 10,000.

Dr Draper said: "The public alarm over living near a nuclear power station is overdone. The popular conception that



In tune: Robert Tewsley and Lucia Lacarra rehearsing Nutcrocker for the English

Ministers accused of Hackney U-turn

The Government was accused of doing a U-turn yesterday, after ministers backed Hackney Council's rejection of most of the proposals of a hit squad sent in to remedy the London borough's education crisis.

Richard Painter, chairman of the improvement team sent into Hackney by the Government, last night rejected suggestions that he would resign. But he is, however, asking for meetings with both government and council officials, after Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, welcomed the council education committee's "positive response".

The present row is over the appointment of a director of education, a post which has been unfilled for nearly two years. Mr Painter wants the director to be responsible for all aspects of education to ensure that the job goes to a first-class candidate.

Tony Elliston, the council's chief executive, and councillors want the director to be in charge only of schools. A separate executive director would have responsibility for consumer services and construction.

The committee did make some concessions to the improvement team by agreeing to upgrade the director of schools post and offer the salary sug-

gested by Mr Painter. Earlier this week, Mr Painter said that " he would ask ministers to intervene unless the council accepted his report by next Thursday.

Before Wednesday night's meeting, official Labour councillors in Hackney were also backing Mr Painter's team. Mr Byers' intervention is understood to have led to their decision to support rebel Labour, Conservative and Liberals in opposing the team's proposals.

Mark Lushington of the Hackney Teachers' Association said there had been a stitch-up. "Ministers have caved in to the local politicians _ this government is supposed to be about education, education, not politics, politics." A Department for Educa-

tion spokesman said the Government had not backed down. We asked for someone to head the education service in Hackney and the council has agreed to that."

The improvement team was invited into Hackney after an inspectors' report said the education service was "in disarray."

But Mr Painter said they did not go far enough. "My team is very unhappy about this. They are all pretty upset."



How pilots train for disaster

Experts yesterday removed a Virgin Atlantic jet from the Heathrow Airport runway where it had made an emergency landing. As the man who brought it to earth was hailed a hero, Louise Jury looks at how pilots are trained to deal with such emergencies.

Retired Captain Eric Moody knows what it is like to endure that heart-stopping moment when a plane fails. Fifteen years ago, all four engines on his plane cut out when a volcano erupted beneath him and he flew through the ash.

"The only thing that goes through your mind is how the hell can you get out of the mess you're in. You don't believe it to start with. Then things happen which convince you. You begin to think very lucidly."

They are moments that pilots are trained for, but training today is rarely done in an aeroplane. Simulators have been devised which give a lifelike sensation of real flight. Dave Badrick, a training

captain for Virgin, says pilots training for a new type of aircraft would spend up to 60 hours on the simulator.

Every six months, they return for two days to practice routine procedures and to work through a series of potential emergencies. There

from bydraulic failure to the failures of one or all the engines. Over a three-year period, all possibilities would be covered.

Captain Badrick said: "It's quite easy to forget you're in a simulator. They perform just like an aeroplane.

But although Captain Moody agreed they were "remarkably real", he said he could never get it out his mind that he was still on solid ground. "Being several thousand feet in the air is a great concentrator of the mind."

Captain Tim Barnby made his emergency landing on Wednesday afternoon after his Virgin Atlantic flight VS024 from Los Angeles developed undercarriage problems. Yesterday, travellers faced delays al half an inch thick covering and service was not expected to dozens of potential disasters return to normal until today.

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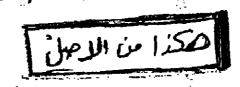
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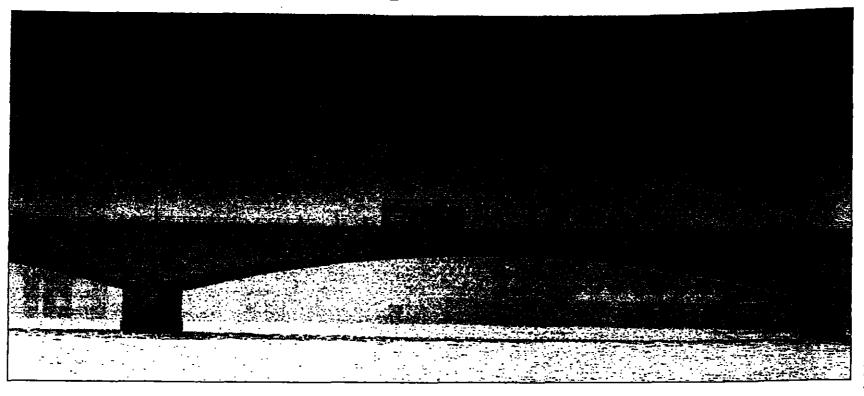
Worst pollution for three years - but nothing is done

Britain has just had its worst smog in three years, with pollution levels in our major cities equal to those which triggered an emergency crackdown on traffic in Paris last month. Yet, says our **Environment Correspondent** Nicholas Schoon, over here the Government alerted no one and took no action.

The authorities in Paris ordered half of all private cars off the road and made public transport free when levels of nitrogen dioxide reached a critical point five weeks ago. When these same levels were reached in London last Friday and Tuesday, no one noticed and nothing happened. British environmental groups fumed at what they saw as outrageous government complacency.

The cause of the smog was pollution road traffic was the most important source - combined with freezing temperatures and very still air conditions lasting for several days. Dirty air was effectively trapped, while pollutants accumulated in it. Bonfires have added to the smog, especially boosting levels of particulates - microscopic specks which can be drawn deep into the lungs and are thought to be among the most dangerous components of air pollution.

But the highest levels of nitrogen dioxide, the key smog indicator, were reached on Friday before the Bonfire Night celebrations got under way. At three London



monitoring stations, in Camden, Wandsworth and Southwark, they went well above 200 parts per billion - the situation which triggered the drastic action in Paris.

hours, millions of people were exposed to pollution levels well into the Govern-Similar or even higher levels were hit ment's "poor" band, and above the health in Manchester. Glasgow, Edinburgh, standard set by its panel of expert advisors. Cardiff, Birmingham, Newcastle, Bristol, Last night, a spokeswoman for the De-

Manchester, and Newcastle. It was the worst smog since December 1994. For many and the Regions said: "We didn't do anything extra than that we would normally forecasts for air quality continued on

purtment of the Environment, Transport for Clean Air, said: "No action was taken, no one was notified. This shows that pollution remains a big problem, and the Govdo:"The routine dissemination of data and ermment should not be dragging its feet."

Roger Higman, transport campaigner Ceefax, Teletext and a telephone helpline. with Friends of the Earth, said: "It's out-Mary Stevens, of the National Society rageous that air pollution can get so bad and

A bus making its way across London Bridge while the rest of the capital's skyline is shrouded in smog. The Government has been accused of inaction over pollution levels Photograph: Tom Pilston

the Government not give out an alert." In theory, councils have emergency powers to shut major roads when pollution reaches health-threatening levels. They have never been used. The Government is implementing an air quality strategy devised by its Tory predecessors. But the British approach is to try to ensure pollutants never hit levels high enough to require drastic action to get cars off the road. It is an approach now brought into question.

The smog has now passed with the change in the weather. It came to light as latest Government figures, released yesterday, showed traffic levels in July to September 4 per cent higher than for the same time last year. Meanwhile, new research suggests just 20 per cent of Britain's drivers are responsible for half the miles driven and half the pollution generated by cars.

The study, conducted by Oxford University's Environmental Change Unit in two Oxfordshire villages, found such drivers are predominantly male, in high-paid employment, and mostly driving company cars. In all, the 14 per cent of respondents with company cars were responsible for 36 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions.

disaster

Official green watchdog fears cuts

The Government's green watchdog says it is facing cutbacks and hundreds of jobs losses because ministers are sticking to their Tory predecessors' spending plans. But, says Nicholas Schoon, the threat can be lifted if it is allowed to charge polluting industry more.

The Environment Agency will have to cut 500 staff over the

Transport and the Regions have flatly rejected the agency's plea for the Tory government's spending plans to be changed plans which would see real falls in its total income over the next three years.

Now it hopes it will be allowed to raise the charges it imby above the rate of inflation, to make up the shortfall. That idea was anathema to the last government but this one may be

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ment of the Environment, inspection and monitoring by the agency. A small above inflation increase could bring in an extra £5m which, said chief executive Ed Gallagher, could make all the difference.

The agency, created just 18

months ago by amalgamating several other organisations, has a £560m a year budget and 9,500 poses on the firms in monitors staff who monitor and control pollution of land, air and water as well as overseeing flood defence and water resources. Its chairman, Lord de Ram-

sey, and Mr Gallagher said ac-A large industrial plant op- tivities which bring real next three years unless it is al- erating several processes which environmental gains but which groups to the European Com lowed to boost its spending, its emit pollutants into the air and it is not compelled by law to car-mission, and eventually the Eurivers can be charged tens of ry out will have to be cut. One ropean Court.

Ministers in the Depart- thousands of pounds a year for of these is its efforts to control fly-tipping, which is rising around the country after the introduction of a tax on waste dumping at landfill sites. In Northampton instances of fly tipping have risen 60 per cent.

Also under threat are its efforts to educate and persuade polluting industry, especially smaller firms, that cutting their output of toxic substances into the environment can boost efficiency and save money.

Mr Gallagher said he feared cutbacks could leave the Government vulnerable to legal challenges by environmental

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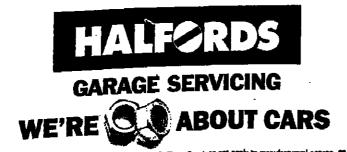
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An actor's boycott of television adverts has given an unexpected lease of life to a much maligned group of entertainers - former Radio One DJs.

Bruno Brookes, Keith Chegwin and Mike Read three DJs of the generation whose ingratiating style was pilloried mercilessly by the comedian Harry Enfield through his characters Smashey and Nicey - are making a comeback in advertisements while members of the actors' union, Equity, continue a ban as part of a pay dispute with advertisers.

Advertising agencies are becoming so short of people to make their commercials they have been recruiting commuters as they get off trains and drinkers as they file out of pubs.

The problem began in May when Equity told its members to boycott British television commercials in protest at plans to reduce by up to two-thirds the fee paid to voice-over artists.

This has created an opportunity for the former Radio One trio - who are all working currently on commercials. With repeat

fees and royalties they could earn up to £20,000.

Almost all actors are members of Equity but some DJs classify themselves as presenters". Tony Fox, agent for the trio, said: "When Keith Chegwin is on a TV commercial he doesn't play a 'role'. He doesn't act. He appears as Keith Chegwin."

Bruno Brookes, who currently fronts various radio shows from a converted studio in his home, said: "My advertising work has tripled since the boycott began. I've got no problem with Equity but while its members are not available the wheels of advertising have to keep

moving." He added that hiring radio presenters such as himself was more expensive for the

All of which has left Equity rather deflated. A spokesman for the union said: "The artists need to know that we are acting in the interests of anyone who does voice-overs. We will be speaking to their representatives so they are made fully aware that if we

lose this case everyone

involved could lose out." — Benjamin Todd



Bruno Brookes: He says that his work in advertising has tripled since the Equity boycott began

Bentley case goes back to appeal court 44 years on

The case of Derek Bentley, who was hanged 44 years ago for the murder of a policeman. during a bungled robbery, is to be referred back to the Court of Appeal. The decision, writes Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, is a major victory for the Bentley family.

More than four decades after Derek Bentley was convicted of unurder he is likely to be cleared

of the charge posthumously. The Criminal Cases Review Commission, set up earlier this year to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice, announced yesterday that it was sending the case back for the appeal court judges to reconsider.

The commission concluded that there were several potential areas which suggested the conviction was unsafe.

The Bentley family have always maintained that Derek, 19, should never have been executed for his part in the killing of Constable Sidney Miles during a break-in at a warehouse in Croydon, south London in 1952.

PC Miles was shot dead by Bentley's accomplice, Christopher Craig, 16, after he confronted them on the warehouse

At the teenagers' trial three policemen alleged that immediately before the murder Bentley shouted to him: "Let him have it, Chris".

Lord Chief Justice Goddard told the jury that when two people go out on a criminal enterprise which ends in murder, both are guilty in law, whoever fired the shots.

Craig, who was too young to hang, was jailed and served 10 years, but Bentley was sentenced to death. The jury was never told that he had a mental age of just 11.

Following his execution at Wandsworth Prison in January 1953, Bentley's sister, Iris, mounted a lifelong campaign to clear his name.

In 1993, Iris Bentley won a partial victory when Michael Howard, the then home secretary, granted a limited posthu-

mous pardon, accepting that her brother should not have been hanged while maintaining his guilt. She was finally allowed to

erect a headstone over her brother's grave, 27 years after getting his body moved from Wandsworth prison to Croydon cemetery.

However, she died last January of cancer. Since then the campaign to win a full pardon has been led by her daughter, Maria Bentley-Dingwall.

The solicitors for the Bentley family argued yesterday that the material that persuaded the Criminal Cases Review Commission that the case should be referred to the Court of Appeal was "virtually identical" to one presented to the



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Derek Bentley: Likely to be cleared of murder

Home Office in October 1996, but no action was taken.

Ms Bentley-Dingwall, said she was "absolutely ecstatic" at yesterday's decision.

"But I just wish my mother was alive to see this day. It was what she fought for so long and she would have been so happy." she added.

"My family has had to go through so much and knowing your son or brother has been hanged is terrible."

Among commission referring the case back to the appeal court included a medical report not disclosed at the time of the trial showing Bentley was "feebleminded and the suggestion that his statement was taken incorrectly by the police.

Rape victims may be spared grilling from defendants

which would, in effect, bar rape victims from cross-examination

by their alleged attackers. The proposal, which comes after a case in which a rapist was able to question his two victims for days in open court, is one of several options being considered by an inter-departmental group set up to look at the interests of witnesses.

At present child witnesses are protected from cross-examination by defendants, and the idea under consideration is to extend this right to other vulnerable witnesses, such as alleged rape victims.

Another option being discussed by the Vulnerable Witness Group, which is due to report in the New Year, is to recommend fresh guidance for judges, giving them full discretion to prevent, or stop crossexamination if they feel the defendant is abusing his or her right to a fair trial.

At the moment ministers believe that judges are too constrained by fears that by preventing effective cross-examination, defendants would have

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strong grounds for an appeal. The Home Office minister Alun Michael who confirmed the need for a clarification in the law, said: " the judge has to be very careful, because if he steps in too quickly, the danger

is he will give grounds for an

Ministers are considering plans appeal. If that appeal is successful, a rapist can walk free."

In the case which finished at Knightsbridge Crown Court on Wednesday, the 43-yearold defendant - who cannot be named for legal reasons - was able to cross-examine his two victims for several days, even though trial Judge Timothy Pontius warned him against "manipulating the system". The jury later took just over an hour to convict him.

At one point one of the women victims asked the judge. "Do I have to put up with this? I have never been so humiliated in my life."

Yesterday Victim Support. which has a representative on the group considering changes in the law, welcomed the com-

mitments by ministers. A spokeswoman said that while defendants had a right to a fair trial, the treatment of the two women in the Knightsbridge case had been "ap-

She added: "No women should have to go through what they went though."

The concern among all groups is that such experiences will discourage other women from coming forward as witnesses in rapes cases, where there is already a low conviction

> Michael Streeter Legal Affairs Correspondent

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The grandson who believes it's time to rewrite history



this is now: Stephen Kerensky (left) at his antique stall in Warwickshire. Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

His grandfather, Alexander (right) flanked by soldiers in the Winter Palace in 1917



Millions of Russians will today honour the Bolsheviks who led the **October Revolution 80** years ago. Spare a thought, though, for the man they threw out. Kerensky's British grandson believes history is guilty of a terrible misjudgement.

Moscow — As Russia's Comand sally forth on to the icy streets to celebrate the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, one man will be at home in Britain, working on plans for a mission to resurrect the reputation of a politician they once ousted and still scorn – his grandfather, Alexander.

No matter that Stephen Kerensky, a writer and antiques dealer from Warwickshire, must overcome decades of relentless Soviet propaganda. No matter that his views also run counter to those of some of the West's leading historians.

He believes that his grandfather is one of the "most vilified politicians of any era", the whipping boy of both the West and Russia in their rush to conceal errors that led to collectivisation, famine, Stalin's terror and the KGB. So he has decided to change history's mind. Family, after all, is family.

The story of Alexander Kerensky is one of those great "what ifs". Had his coalition government struggled on, would Lenin have ever taken charge? Would Stalin have terrorised and slaughtered millions? Or could Russia have become one of the world's democracies, a citadel of free speech and human rights?

A democratic lawyer, Kerensky became head of Russia's Provisional Government in the summer of 1917, four months after the monarchy finally buckled under the weight of Nicholas II's bovine conviction that he had a divine right to rule as an autocrat. After his abdication. Kerensky was one of several who persuaded the tsar's younger brother, the Grand Duke Mikhail, that there would be civil war if the monarchy tried to stagger on. A brilliant orator and - at

least, at first - a vastly popular figure, he remained in office until the Bolsheviks finally seized power, 80 years ago today, when they peppered the Winter Palace in St Petersburg with machine-gun fire, breezed in and arrested his ministers.

Kerensky, then only 36, escaped earlier in a car flying the

Stars and Stripes - an exploit in which Soviet propagandists subsequently revelled, emphasising the damning detail that he fled dressed in women's clothing. That allegation, says Stephen Kerensky, is one slur among many: "One of the main Soviet slanders against him is that he was living like a tsar in the Winter Palace, holding orgies and being driven around in the Tsar's Rolls. That was actually Lenin's hobby, not Kerensky's."

Later this month Mr Kerenmunists unfurl their red banners sky, 48, who lives in Rugby, will press his case in person when he travels to St Petersburg for the publication of the first instalment of the memoirs of his grandmother, Olga, who settled in Britain after the revolution. It will be printed by a magazine, Zvezda (Star), which has taken up the cause with relish.

"We believe Kerensky was a tor-in-chief, Yakov Gordin. "His role was distorted later and caricatured for political reasons by the Soviets. Our task is to restore the true image of this

important politician." They have a formidable task

BY PHIL **REEVES**

on their hands; Kerensky, who eventually lived in the US, spent much of his life writing books about his version of events. His son Gleb -Stephen's father - also took up the cudgels, and for decades bombarded the Times with letters seeking to clear his father's name. And yet Kerensky's dismal reputation has lived on.

Especially in Russia. At 94, Alexander Alexeyev is deaf and very doddery, but he remembers the former prime minister well enough. He was 13 during the October Revolution, and now - his fragile chest weighed down by Soviet medals says: "There is nothing positive to say about Kerensky. He expressed the interests of the bourgeoisie, that's all."

Leading historians have been even less charitable, casting Kerensky in the role of a theatrical, self-indulgent figure who emerged as an early hero - a cult figure, even, among the democratic intelligentsia - of the revolution, but frittered his support away through indecision and vanity.

Richard Pipes, author of a highly authoritative history of the revolution, wrote that he was "all impulse and emotion"

and was "incapable of coping" with his responsibilities. Another, Orlando Figes, author of the award-winning A People's Tragedy, has accused him of being a man of "Bonapartist ambitions", undone by "weakness of will" who went on to a life in exile penning "mendacious" memoirs. Towards the end of his rule, says Dr Figes, he was an isolated figure, who had "no idea of the extent of his own unpopularity".

Stephen Kerensky appears undaunted by these weighty opponents. He personally knew his grandfather who died in New York in 1970; he found him 'amazingly charismatic". He points to his record as a lawyer who defended Bolsheviks during the tsarist era.

"Lenin, by contrast, is probably the most contradictory character in history. His terrifying rage and an equally terbelief in the rig every thought that ever crossed his mind created a holocaust that lasted for 50 years."

Britain ranks high on the list of those whom he believes have undermined Kerensky's proper historical legacy. In particular, he blames the British, who were desperate to keep Russia in the war, for supporting the right wing, dictatorially-inclined Russian commander-in-chief, General Lavr Kornilov - whom Kerensky fatally bounced into open revolt by accusing him of plotting a military coup. "By failing to support Kerensky, the British contributed to his fall, and therefore bear some responsibility for Lenin. Stalin and the holocaust that followed," said Mr Kerensky.

Life is full of lost causes, and Stephen Kerensky is probably fighting one of them. His family is entwined in one of history's most momentous episodes. Yet changing the text is astonishingly hard. "I can't write a book because I have no great credibility as a historian, and I can't read or write Russian. I would be torn apart."

But he believes he will win in the end: "I am quite convinced that this issue is going to dramatically change. Historians cannot sustain their position. It just doesn't stand up."

He can, at least, take comfort in one small detail. Hot news: as Russians take to the streets today, Kerensky's ratings are on the up. In 1991, 20 per cent of Russians saw him as a bad apple, according to a survey by the All-Russia Centre for Public Opinion Studies. That figure has now dropped by a third. Okay, so they also feel better about Nicholas II and Stalin; but it's a start.

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Kerensky with Ekaterina Breshko-Breshkovskaya, a socialist activist who became known as the 'Mother of the Revolution'



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Drug baron's plastic surgeon found dead

The lesson is: if you perform clandestine plastic surgery on Mexico's most-wanted druglord to help him elude police, you'd better get it right.

Otherwise you are likely to end up like the three bodies - handcuffed, blindfolded, strangled and burnt - found inside oil drums on the Mexico City to Acapulco motorway last weekend. Police forensic experts said yesterday at least one of the men was a plastic surgeon believed to have operated on cocaine baron Amado Carrillo Fentes last 3 July. The other two may have been assistants to the surgeon, 37year-old Jaime Godoy Singh, the experts

Carrillo. 42, died in a Mexico City clinic the following day, 4 July, apparently as the result of the anaesthetic or sleeping pills he had been given. The fact that he died on the Fourth of July - US Independence Day - raised speculation that US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents had reached his doctors and persuaded them to kill him. The DEA flatly denied any involvement.

Whether or not Godoy or his assistants deliberately killed Carrillo, both Mexican and US anti-narcotics agents knew the doctors were in big trouble. None of them ever reappeared at their homes.

Then, on Sunday, police made the gruesome discovery by the side of the motorway: three ing dental records.

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The body of plastic surgeon Jaime Godoy Singh, found strangled and burnt inside an oil drum Photograph: Alejandrino Gonzalez/AP

oil drums, partly filled with cement, each with have been strangled with a cable and set fire to while handcuffed and blindfolded.

Asked to identify his son's body from a photograph, Godoy's father became sick. The surgeon's brother later identified the body because of a plastic jaw prosthesis and match-

Carrillo, from the northern Mexican state a body stuffed inside. Each body appeared to of Sinaloa, was known as "The Lord of the Skies" because he controlled air routes carrying Colombian cocaine via Mexico to the US. Heading the so-called Juarez cartel, he gathered a fortune estimated at \$25bn (£15bn), spending much of it on paying off top police fought for his turf.

and military officers. Earlier this year, Mexico's anti-drugs tsar,

General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, was arrested for accepting massive bribes in return for protecting Cartillo.

There was a spate of killings in and around Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas, after Carrillo's death, as rival druglords

> --- Phil Davison, Latin America Correspondent

Swedish style to transform **Bethlehem** the Byzantine Church of the

Bethlehem is getting a Scandinavian facelift for the Millennium.

Eric Silver in Jerusalem says that although the architect is

Scandinavian, the birthplace of Jesus is not about to get an Ikea workover.

Sporre Linquist, a 62-year-old Swedish architect, has won an international competition for rehabilitating Manger Square, which has long been the supreme anticlimax of the Christian world. The Swedish government signed up this week to fund the scheme, the biggest of 91 projects designed to beautify the West Bank city for the 2,000th anniversary of its most famous Son.

The look will be more Middle Eastern than Scandinavian. "If you compared it with the buildings I've done in Sweden," Mr Linquist said yesterday, "you wouldn't think it was the same architect."

His most recent work, the geography building at Stockholm University, is all wood and concrete. The new Manger Square will be local, honeycoloured limestone, cool arcades and shaded corners. Middle Eastern, but avoiding the Arabian Nights kitsch of the 1970s town hall that stands at the far end of the square from

Switzerland.

Israelis 'plotted kidnap'

A Swiss judge in Geneva said yesterday he had issued in-

ternational arrest warrants for seven Israelis in connection with an alleged plot to kidnap Athina Roussel - the sole surviving heir to the Greek shipping tycoon, Aristotle

Judge Jacques Delieutraz called the suspects, several of whom were former Israeli army officers, "agents" who had done the "dirty work" of preparing the abduction by photographing the 12-year-old and her security entourage in

Britain said yesterday it would not fund Zimbabwe's con-

troversial plan to forcibly buy land from white commercial

farmers to resettle landless black peasants or commercial

farmers. President Robert Mugabe has been demanding that

Britain give his government money to buy back land from

"its white children" so that it can resettle indigenous blacks.

Zimbabwe would be impossible for Britain to support." the

British High Commission said yesterday.— Reuters, Harare

Typhoon Linda killed at least 313 people when it pounded Vietnam last weekend. More than 2,200 people were still

The worst storm to hit the area since 1904, Linda swept into the Gulf of Thailand after crossing the tip of Vietnam,

claiming the lives of many fishermen and nine people in Thailand. Cambodian officials said yesterday that the number of fishermen who drowned in Cambodian waters rose to 25 while more than 100 were still missing. - Reuters, Hanoi

Typhoon kills over 300

missing or unaccounted for, officials said.

"The British government stressed that the programme of rapid land acquisition that now seems to be envisaged in

Nativity.

If you look at the old houses in Bethlehem," Mr Linquist explained, "it's built up with cubistic elements. I've reflected that and enhanced the view of the church."

Vehicles will be banished from the square, which will be paved with stone and scored with trees. Weary pilgrims will be able to dip their feet in six artificial wells, or drink flurkish coffee in a pavilion.

The ugly cement police station, which has blighted the square under British, Jordanian and Israeli rule, is to be torn down. It will be replaced by a two-storey cultural centre, complete with restaurant and bookshop, auditorium, museum of religious, and art gallery.

Work began this week on cleaning up the old market behind the town hall, the first of the 91 "Bethlehem 2000" schemes. All of them together are budgeted to cost \$150m (£94m). The Christian Arab mayor, Hanna Nasser, confessed yesterday that so far he had raised only \$10m, with donations from France and Spain, as well as Sweden.

Bethlehem has been impoverished by a 10-year decline in tourism, dating back to the beginning of the Palestinian Intifada, and by Israel's reluctance to invest there. Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, which took over just before Christmas, 1995, has little money to spare

— Reuters, Geneva



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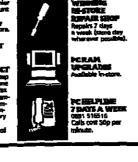
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Thai political ills make king sick One country, two governments: prime minister, Chatichai

that is the position Thailand appears to find itself in after a night of intense political negotiation aimed at choosing a successor to the Prime Minister, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh.

Thais, anxious and bemused at the political turmoil that has followed the country's worst economic crisis in decades, watched in confusion as national television broadcast simultaneous news conferences, with both government and opposition parties claiming enough seats to form the next administration.

Opposition parties led by the Democrats say they have negotiated a coalition and will form the next Thai government, with a former premier, Chuan Leekpie, as the new prime minister.

At the same time, members of the present governing coalition announced that they have also agreed deals with other parties ensuring that they will be leading the next Thai government, with a second former

Choonhaven, as leader. Amid the political turmoil,

which has reached fever pitch, one person has had enough. Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been watching the chaos from his palace, has fallen ill over the squabbling. A royal medical panel says the 69-year-old King has been admitted to hospital for a check-up after recording an irregular heart-beat.

There appears little prospect of an early end to the latest political turmoil, although the speaker of the Thai parliament is expected to announce which parties will form the new government on Monday.

In the meantime, the one certainty in Thailand this morning is that the embattled Mr Yongchaiyudh is no longer formally in power. During his 11 months in office, Thailand's once booming economy sagged into depression, the Thai baht losing more than half its value in recent months.

- Matthew Chance, Bangki

privates

Zimbabwe

Privates on parade as sex harassment case turns ugly

As Bill Clinton busies himself with the affairs of state in Washington, a court in Arkansas is working steadily through the preliminaries of a case that threatens to expose a cruder side to the President. But Americans cannot decide whether they want to know about it or not, as Mary Dejevsky reports.

This week, television viewers in Washington DC were surprised to see a commercial featuring a picture of a women looking very like Paula Jones - the woman who accuses Bill Clinton of exposing himself to her in an Arkansas hotel room six years

ago and asking for oral sex. The Flowers. She is the woman commercial asks for women who may have been "sexually harassed by the President" to register their complaints.

No one ever pretended that the lawsuit known as "Paula Jones v the President of the United States" would be an edifying experience. Since late summer, however, when Ms Jones rejected a financial settlement - rumoured to be close to the \$700,000 she had originally claimed - sacked her lawyers and hired an aggressive PR consultant, things have started to get brutal.

Ms Jones has submitted a list of intimate questions to Mr Clinton in an attempt to solicit details of his sex life and his anatomy. Her lawyers have also named - and in at least one case, subpoenaed - women believed to be former girlfriends of the President, including Gennifer

named during the 1992 election campaign as his long-time mistress, who has steadfastly refused to speak against him.

The strategy is two-fold: to show "a pattern of behaviour" in Mr Clinton's past and to demonstrate the veracity of an affidavit Ms Jones reportedly swore when she first brought her case three years ago that could prove her case. In the affidavit, Ms Jones apparently describes "distinguishing characteristics" of Mr Clinton's "genital area".

Last month, it seemed the puzzle of the distinguishing characteristics had been solved, when newspapers quoted "sources" as saying she referred to a curvature of the President's erect penis - a phenomenon said to be caused by Pevronie's disease. The theory was backed up by more "in-

formed sources" saying that Mr Clinton had been tested for this condition during his annual medical examination the pre-

vious week. Meanwhile, the court in Little Rock, Arkansas, was embarking on the preliminary hearings of witnesses that are a prelude to most American court cases. So far, evidence has been taken from Ms Jones's close relatives, former colleagues, and a couple of women said to have been high-school girlfriends of Bill Clinton.

The odds that the case will actually come to court on the appointed date of 26 May have shortened dramatically. Having rejected a settlement said to be close to what she had asked for, because it was conditional on Mr Clinton not accepting responsibility or apologising, Ms Jones is said to want only to restore her reputation.

Mr Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, has donehis utmost to ters has been highly politicised. keep the case out of court (and The mainstream media, inout of the headlines). After failing to have the case deferred -

to protect the President from

distraction during his term of

office - or dismissed for lack of

evidence, Mr Bennett has suc-

cessfully persuaded the judge to

impose a "gag" order on the

preliminary hearings to prevent

the testimony from becoming

however, Mr Bennett has also

been considerably helped by the

ambivalence of the American

media about what should and

should not be disclosed. Pon-

ular curiositycomes up against

American prudishness and

deference to the office of the

presidency. Even before the gag

order, little emerged from the

Little Rock hearings, and the

In keeping the case low-key,

cluding the New York Times. Washington Post and network television, have fought shy of even mentioning penile matters. Details have been reported. however, not just by the tabloids, but by the right-wing anti-Clinton Washington Times.

This media division lends support to the view that Ms lones – who is thousands of dollars in debt to two former sets of lawyers - may have funding from a section of the religious right that wants to discredit Mr Clinton as President and politician and will stop at nothing to do so. Ms Jones, however, denies that her cause is in any way political, and the pleas for funds that scatter the Internet on her behalf suggest that, wherever her funding comes reporting of the distinguishing from, she could do with more.



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President who can even charm enemies

Struggle for dignity: Clinton's advisers have fought tooth

and nail to keep the President out of court

Some of the qualities that ex- a power that would allow Conplain why so many Americans are prepared to give the US President the benefit of the doubt in the Paula Jones case - or even torgive him if necessary - were fully on display yesterday, when Mr Clinton went to College Station in Texas to inaugurate the presidential library of his predecessor at the White House, George Bush.

Bill Clinton's personal charm and political savvy are second to none and have recently elicited grudging respect even from Mr Bush - who dismissed his rival during the 1992 election campaign as a "bozo".

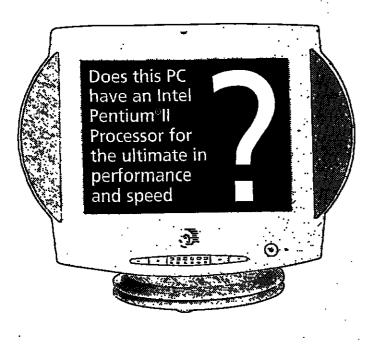
His lightning trip to Texas allowed him not only to mend fences gracefully with his predecessor but also to earn political capital for his bid to obtain what is known as "fast track authority from Congress. The Senate is expected to vote today on whether it will restore "fast track" authority to the President to negotiate international trade agreements -

gress to approve or reject an agreement, but not to amend it.

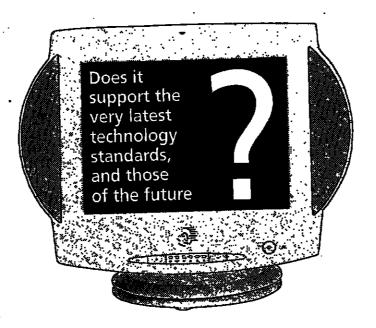
Inaugurating the Bush library yesterday, Mr Clinton paid elegant and generous tribute to his predecessor at the White House, recalling his war record, his long and loyal public service and the positive aspects of his single-term presidency. Beforehand, however, he shamelessly exploited the presence at the ceremony of four previous presidents - all of whom had enjoyed fasttrack authority in their time to press his own political campaign of the moment.

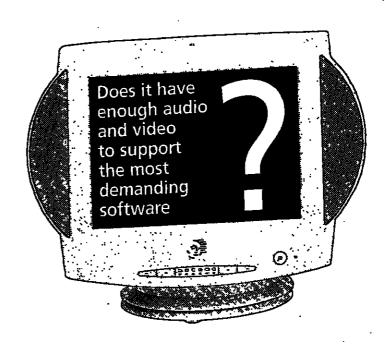
Mingling easily with his predecessors, Mr Clinton extracted from Mr Bush a statement of "great respect for what the President is trying to do in getting fast track through this Congress", and from Jimmy Carter the view that failure would be "a slap in the face for our friends and allies in Latin

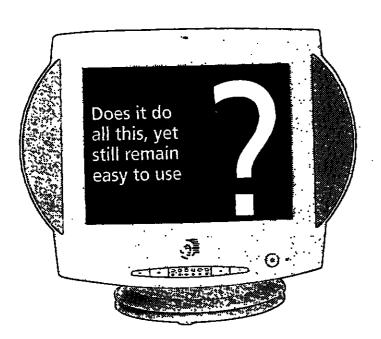
— Mary Dejevsky



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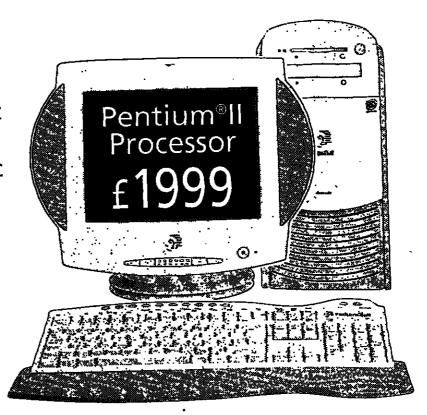
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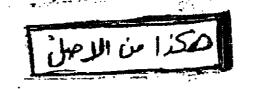


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Girls behindly post prob

Girls behaving badly pose a new problem

Despite years of warnings, more young women are drinking too much and, for the first time, the proportion who smoke has risen.

Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, looks at why bright young women are acquiring bad habits.

Every year since 1972 smoking has been on the decline in Britain. But this year for the first time young women are bucking the trend. The Office for National Statistics warned yesterday that smoking amongst women - and particularly young women - is again on the rise.

Coupled with that, large amounts of young women are now drinking more than the recommended maximum amount of alcohol a week. Whereas the Department of Health has recommended 14 units as a "safe" level since 1984, the numbers of women drinking above that level has increased by half as much again.

Health campaigners are worried that young women are increasingly pursuing habits which damage their health. A greater amount of disposable income - particularly among single women, those working and women under 25 - means they can indulge themselves.

The results of the General Household Survey found that while eigarette smoking has risen by 2 per cent amongst women generally (the reverse was true of men) among the 16to 19-year-olds the increase was 5 per cent and among the 25- to 34-year-olds 4 per cent. Household Survey; Stationery

The ONS findings reflect Office; £10.

those of the Health Education Authority which has warned that lung cancer deaths are set to overtake breast cancer as the biggest killer of women. The authority said yesterday that it is launching an anti-smoking campaign which will focus on women, particularly teenagers. A third of 15-year-olds were smoking and the evidence suggested that they are taking the habit onwards.

"We are very concerned," said a spokesman for the HEA. "Why young women are smoking more is the million dollar question but we're trying to find out." He said the media had played a role, especially in films in which smoking was associated with glamour and

A spokeswoman for ASH -Action on Smoking and Health - said that there was no single explanation for the rise. "But tobacco companies are spending £100m on advertising whereas the Government are spending £10m on anti-smoking education."

Both more men and women are recorded as drinking over sensible levels in the GHS but the significant increase is amongst women and again the largest increase is among younger women - a quarter of 18- to 24-year-olds drink more than they should.

Earlier this year it was reported that the number of women drinking above recommended levels rose by 50 per cent between 1984 and 1994, and a study by Alcohol Concern said that 500,000 women now drink at "very risky" levels defined as more than 50 units a week (or 25 pints of ordinary beer or six bottles of wine). ● Living in Britain: Preliminary Results from the 1996 General



Drink problem: Health surveys show young women are drinking and smoking too much

Elderly least likely to be burgled

Elderly people are less likely than those in any other age group to suffer burglary. Gendo Cooper looks at a survey which provides a unique snapshot of our life today.

Living in a household where there are one or two elderly people over the age of 60 carries a much lower risk of burglary than any other household, according to a survey.

The preliminary results from the 1996 General Household Survey show that the burglary rate was 23 per 1,000 horseholds compared to 55 per 1,000 where adults and children live. The survey also revealed that the burglary rate has fallen from 4.6 per cent in 1993 to 3.3 per cent in 1996.

There is a popular view that elderly people living alone are more likely to be vulnerable but they are less likely to be burgled," said Paul Hunter, the survey's principal researcher.

Those living in detached houses were also less likely to be burgled than their neighbours in semi-detached or terraced houses. Those most at risk from break-ins were those living in private rented accommodation or those in social housing.

A spokesman for Age Concern said: "The reason why elderly people suffer less burglaries is that a lot of burglaries occur during the day when people are out, but older people tend to be in.

"But it should be reassuring for older people who can sometimes feel vulnerable and have a fear of crime. There is also a misconception that older people are likely to be attacked in the street but statistically young, single men are much more at risk. The one exception is bogus callers where people impersonate officials. We would warn old people to take care. Keep the chain on until you are sure who the caller is."

The survey also looks at the way households have changed over the 25 years since it was first carried out. While the proportion of lone parent families rose steadily through the 1970s and 1980s it is levelling off in the 1990s. However, 21 per cent of families are now headed by a lone parent compared with 8 per cent in 1971.

The most common type of household is a married couple with no dependent children. 375 One in four women now choose to cohabit rather than get married, and the average family has 1.8 children.

SNAPSHOT OF A CHANGING BRITAIN

- One in five families are now headed by a lone parent. • One in four women live with a partner rather than
- marrying. • The number of people owning CD players has more than doubled in the last five years.
- Seven out of 10 households have a car or van compared to half in 1972.
- Two thirds of households now own their homes compared to just under half in 1971.
- In 1996, 69 per cent of all adults had an educational qualification, compared to 41 per cent 20 years earlier.
- More than one in five men and women say they have a limiting chronic illness - double the proportion in 1972.
- Nearly two thirds of us take part in some physical activity.
- Three per cent of households were burgled in 1996, down from 4.6 per cent in 1993.

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Rainstorms kill 31 in southern Spain and Portugal

More than 20 people died in Spain and at least 11 in Portugal yesterday after torrennial rainstorms ravaged the southern part of both countries. In Spain the region of Extremadura, near the Portuguese border, was worst affected, with roads and railways cut and electricity and telephone lines down.

Extremadura's regional governor called for the area to be declared a disaster zone and urged people not to drive on the motorways, which had turned into rivers. Andalucia was also badly affected, with the fishing fleet confined to port and the River Guadalquivir near Cadiz 15 metres higher than usual and on the point of bursting its banks. Seville and Cordoba were among the towns devastated by storm damage.

Army units were mobilised to help people trapped in their homes and to clear the forest of fallen trees that lay strewn across the country. Forecasters said the 100kph rainstorms would gradually ease off, but that strong westerly winds would continue.

— Elizabeth Nash, Madrid After the deluge: Residents of Badajoz in Extramadura, Spain clear up yesterday. Rain turned roads into rivers Photograph: Reuters

Serb soldier confesses to war atrocities

A Serbian paramilitary fighter in the wars in Croatia and Bosnia has admitted torturing and killing up to 80 people, including women, and said he cut off Muslims' ears for sale.

"I am a dead man and nothing worse can happen to me," Slobodan Misic, a former convict, told the Serbian newspaper Novine Vranjske. "I am 50 years old, and I am sick of lying "

Serbia has denied involvement in the wars in Bosnia and Croatia after they declared independence from the federation in 1991-92.

Misic's account was the first time since the wars that a Serbian paramilitary soldier has openly admitted to committing atrocities to the domestic media and public.

He said he did not regret his actions, except the murders of two Muslim women.

"I would do the same again, in Kosovo," he said, referring the troubled Albanian-majority province in southern Serbia. Asked if he wasn't tired of

if something were to break out

killing, he replied: "The biggest

mistake is when you kill for the first time. After that it just goes on its own ... You can't understand how it is. It gets into your blood, your brain. Like a drug. You just can't go without it."

He said he volunteered in 1991 because he "could not bear to see mass crimes against the Serb population" and was sent to the front line near Vukovar in Croatia.

The first man Misic said he killed was a Croat: "First I was scared and nauseated, but after two or three days you get used to everything." He said the largest number of people were killed in Vukovar. "They killed us, we killed them."

When the war started in Bosnia in April 1992 he joined local paramilitary units operating in eastern Bosnia. They "cleaned out the Muslim villages, one by one".

When short of funds, he said he sold Muslims' ears to Serbs for 50 German marks spiece, He said he always cut off the ears personally, and always the left ear. "One ear - one Muslim," he - Reuters, Belgrade

Blair summit call for EU reform

onel Jospin, arrived last night for their "Docklands summit" with Tony Blair, to be greeted by a new British call for sweeping reform of the European Union institutions.

Britain intends to imprint upon its forthcoming EU presidency, Mr Blair said Europe was not functioning to the benefit of its people, and the "necessary changes" had to be made in its structures.

"We're not creating enough jobs, we have to learn to co-operate better," he told the French daily Le Monde.

Mr Chirac's first stops were the traditional ones of a meeting the Queen at Buckingham Palace, followed by a dinner 10 Downing Street.

Thereafter, however, the tempo and the setting change completely - to serious talks, not in Whitehall but the steel and glass modernity of Canary

President Jacques Chirac and Wharf, intended by Mr Blair as his Socialist Prime Minister, Li- a showcase for the his new and youthful Britain. The décor, the menu, even the views of the nearby Millennium Dome site, all seek to convey a vigorous, creative country.

The discussions themselves Returning to a theme that are expected to be amicable enough, especially as the French truck-drivers' dispute seemed last night to be edging towards settlement. But Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, will seek assurances that the planned Eurocouncil, informally grouping member-countries of the single currency, will not prove a device that excludes Britain from key European deliberations.

Other topics will be the crisis in Iraq and the situation in Bosnia. Among the bilateral agreements to be signed is one for an electronic link-up of 100 British and French schools, and a Paris memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Rupert Comwell



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Stronger Saddam tests US power in the Middle East

Iraq and the UN have backed away from immediate confrontation over the

American members of the UN strategic weapons monitoring team. But the longerterm indications are gloomy.

Our correspondent reports on the latest bout between Iraq and the US and asks if the status quo in the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war is beginning to collapse.

We have been here before. Confrontation between President Saddam Hussein and the outside world has become a ritual with familiar props: the declaration of defiance by the Iraqi leader, US threats of military action, manoeuvrings at the UN, the arrival of breathless CNN correspondents in Baghdad,

Why has President Saddam chosen this moment for a confrontation? The immediate reason was probably Iran's hope of a split in the United Nations Security Council, with Russia, France and China unwilling to maintain economic sanctions forever. They did not go along with the United States and UK in wanting to impose travel restrictions on Iraq officials in retaliation for Iraqi harassment of the UN Special Commission (Unscom) on Iraqi

weapons of mass destruction. But there is more to it than this. For seven years Iraq has been under economic siege. Politically, as Tony Lake, the former US National Security around. Adviser said, the US *has Saddam Hussein in a box". Does The answer to the question is important because American domination of the Middle East dates from its victory in the Gulf war in 1991 and the political iso-

lation of Iraq. Iraq accuses the US, wholly supported by the UK, of using the work of Unscom as an excuse to maintain sanctions. The US and its allies - and so far it has carried the UN Security Council with it - say that Iraq is still concealing the remains of its nuclear, biological and chemical warfare programmes along with some missiles to deliver warheads.

Both are right. Washington wants to keep Iraq weak. It

States Defense Secretary. warned Iraq yesterday that it

is violating United Nations

Security Council resolutions by blocking UN weapons in-

spectors, and said econom-

ic or military steps against

Baghdad might be the result.

item," Mr Cohen said.

This is not a negotiable

For the fourth time yes-

terday, Saddam Hussein

barred American members of an international inspection

team from entering the

country to look for biologi-

cal and chemical weapons.

The Iraqi leader claims the

Americans are bent on spy-

echoed others from UN of-

ficials that the Iraqi blockade

is in clear violation of the

1991 ceasefire accords that ended the Gulf War. UN of-

ficials have charged the

Mr Cohen's statement

COHEN FIRES WARNING

William Cohen, the United Iraqis with taking advantage

SHOT IN ARMS ROW

would like to replace Saddam the defection, return and exe-Hussein, but by a coup not a revolution. It does not want lraq to break up, with the majority Iraqi Shia community siding with Iran and the Iraqi Kurds seeking independence. It is useful to have President Saddam as a bogeyman to keep Saudi Arabia and Kuwait firmly allied to the US.

But there is also no doubt that Iraq has tried to hide as

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

much of its strategic weapons arsenal as possible. In 1995, 130 gyroscopes and guidance systems taken from old Soviet SS-18 missiles were intercepted at Amman airport on their way to Baghdad. Iraq had paid \$2m for them and their only possible purpose is to guide long-range missiles.

The numbers of such weapons is unlikely to be large. Toxins like anthrax are not a weapon of mass destruction in the same sense as a nuclear device. Iraq successfully fired al-Hussein Scud missiles at Saudi Arabia and Israel in the Gulf war without benefit to itself. It did not dare use the chemical and nerve gases it had in storage during the war because of fear of retaliation.

It is irrational for the Iraqi leader to fight so hard to retain these weapons, since they provide such a handy excuse for the US to maintain sanctions. The explanation is probably simple megalomania and a desire to show 20 million Iragis and the rest of the world that he cannot be pushed

His past behaviour proves that Saddam Hussein has a of Iraqi politics. It is the international reaction to his moves that he misjudges, as when he invaded Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990.

President Saddam's willingness to stage a confrontation now also probably reflects confidence that his strength is growing. He is in a stronger position at home than five years ago. Last year he successfully intervened with his tanks in Iraqì Kurdistan and US planes did not attack him. The Iraqi opposition had to flee the Kurdish mountains. A plot for a military coup in Baghdad backed by the CIA collapsed. The family feuding which led to

of a two-week forced halt in

weapons inspections to dis-

able surveillance cameras and hide key equipment at

suspected arms sites, and

Mr Cohen said that Washington agrees with those

There is sufficient time to

consider "a whole panoply"

of steps that might be taken

in response to the Iraqi in-

transigence, Mr Cohen said.

duded US military strikes, he added: "They could include

further economic measures,

they could include military as

well." Iraqi attempts to sep-

arate Americans out of the UN inspections teams are

doomed to failure, he added.

able to divide the United

States from the United

Nations."

"They are not going to be

- AP, Washington

Asked whether they in-

assessments.

cution of General Hussein Kamel, his son-in-law, has died down for the moment. The US position is a little weaker than it was in the Mid-

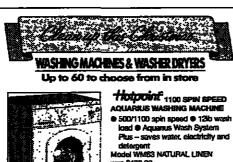
dle East. It has failed to push Israel to reach an agreement with the Palestinians. The Oslo accords are in tatters. The Arab world is angry but impotent. Western Europe does not support American economic sanctions against Iran.

But the US will fight hard to keep its dominance in the Middle East. This means maintaining the status quo of 1991 and the embargo on Iraq. The rest of the world may be suffering from "sanctions fatigue" - but not Washington. And

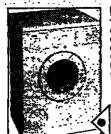
neither France, Russia nor China wants to confront the US on this issue. The latest crisis over weapons inspection show that President Saddam thinks he has a better chance than before of breaking the siege of his country, but he still has a long way to go.



Women hope for food from the Red Crescent in Baghdad. Saddam thinks the weapons crisis will help break the siege of Iraq



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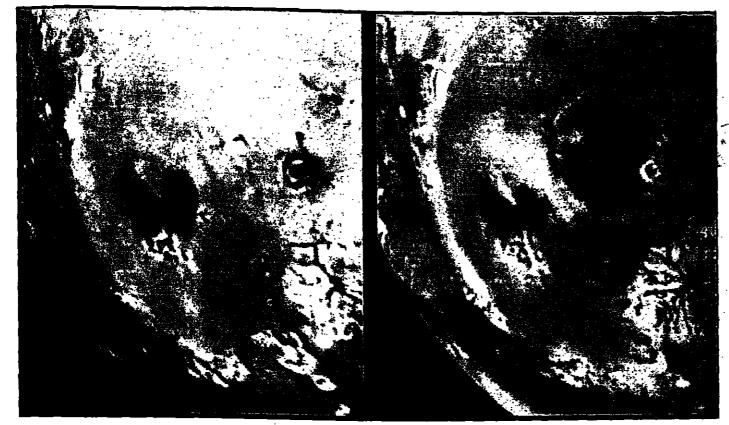


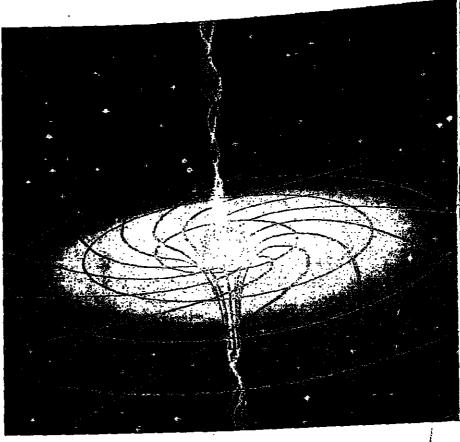
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> lo, one of Jupiter's moons (right), photographed in April by the Galileo craft, and again five

months later (centre) showing a grey spot, 250 miles across, of new laya, meaning that lo could in theory harbour life (Photos: Nasa) unlike a black hole (far right) whose massive spinning forces distort space and even time Artist's representation: joe Bergeron/Sky and Telescope

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(On November 10th, find out what you're missing.)

Einstein passes black hole test

Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity is 81 years old - but astronomers are still finding experimental ways to test it. The latest, from observations of five spinning black holes, demonstrates that one of the major pieces of scientific thinking of this century is correct. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains:

Observations have confirmed an essential tenet of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity - that huge, spinning objects "drag" space and time around them, distorting the fabric of the universe.

A team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) announced yesterday that it has found evidence of "frame number of astronomical obdragging", as the phenome- servations, though nobody has non is called, around five spin- ever seen one directly. ning black holes in our galaxy.

Einstein's theory suggests that any object distorts space and time around it, rather like a ball bearing placed on a stretched rubber sheet. Central to this theory is the idea that any observer moving at a constant velocity will have a self-consistent "frame of reference". So someone travelling almost at the speed of light will find that his watch runs normally and light travels at the normal 186,000 miles per second. But someone at rest compared to the traveller will observe that the traveller's watch seems to run more slowly, and that the traveller (and watch) are far more massive than those at rest. But light still travels at 186,000 miles per

These frames of reference can be distorted; near very massive objects, time and space

do not behave as predictably they do in deep, empty space. A spinning object will drag space and time around with it. like a tornado, and this would affect those frames of reference. Thus the phenomenon is called "frame dragging".

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The information is not directly useful, although some theoreticians have suggested that spinning black holes might open the way to some form of time travel.

Though the phenomenon was first predicted in 1918, it has taken nearly 70 years to be confirmed. First scientists had to demonstrate how objects massive enough to cause such a change could exist in our galaxy, then find them, and finally find evidence that backs up the theoretical prediction.

The existence of massive black holes - objects that exert such a strong gravitational pull that not even light can escape them - has been shown by a

vations from five black holes which pull in material from a neighbouring star. The material forms an "accretion disc" around the black hole, then as it falls into it, heats up and gives off X-rays.

It was these X-rays that the team measured to determine the existence of frame-dragging. Dr Wei Cui, head of the team, told the American Astronomical Society at a meeting in Colorado yesterday that predictions showed that the matter in the accretion disc should wobble – "much as a child's top wobbles when it slows down".

Dr Cui then deduced that this wobbling is evidence of frame-dragging: "the matter's orbit can only wobble if the space and time in which it exists are being dragged," he

Flowing carpets keep Sun warm

A 55-year-old mystery about the temperature of the Sun's corona - the outermost layer, visible during a solar eclipse – has been solved by a European Space Agency (ESA) spacecraft. The answer, it turns out, is that the Sun is covered in carpets.

They are not physical carpets. Instead, they consist of moving waves of magnetism which carry more energy than a hydroelectric plant could generate in a million years.

For years, scientists have known that the corona has a temperature of millions of degrees. Yet the visible surface of the Sun is relatively cold, at about 6,000 degrees centigrade.

Since it is physically impossible in a closed system for thermal energy to be transferred from the cool surface to the hotter one, scientists have long theorised that some form of electromagnetic activity was

causing the necessary energy movement .

The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho) spacecraft, run by ESA and the US space agency Nasa, has discovered that there are huge "carpets" consisting of loops of charged (and hence magnetic) particles flowing across the Sun's surface.

Where the carpets meet they produce "short circuits" which flow upwards into the corona and heat it to its multi-million degree temperature. Images collected by Soho show the bot gases of the corona reacting as the shifting magnetic fields on the surface move and develop.

"We found that after a typical small magnetic loop emerged, it fragments and drifts around and then disappears in only 40 hours," said Alan Title of the Stanford-Lockheed Institute for Space Research in Palo Alto, California,

Charles Arthur



Standards body racked by Hamilton squabbles

Neil Hamilton's bid to clear himself of 'cash for questions' ellegations ended in disarray jesterday when a committee of MPs failed to agree on the charge. Thus a new system of selfsegulation for Parliament fell at es first big hurdle. Fran Abrams and lim Sengupto examine the details.

wo members of Parliament's standards ommittee went on the offensive last night a they dissociated themselves from its Indings on the Neil Hamilton case. The ommittee's response to Sir Gordon Jowney's corruption inquiry was the first ig test of the commissioner's new role in ackling sleaze.

Despite the rift, the committee agreed ir Hamilton's conduct "adds up to a caualness bordering on indifference or conempt towards the rules of the House on isclosure of interests". But Tory MPs Ann Viddecombe and Quentin Davies said Mr Iamilton had been left in limbo, neither to respond to Sir Gordon's findings.

guilty nor innocent, after a row over whether he should have had a right of appeal. Mr Davies said the public would now never know the truth.

In July, Sir Gordon reported that he believed the former minister took money from Mohamed Al Fayed without declaring it in the register of members' interests. Mr Davies said MPs should be able to regulate their own affairs but in this case had failed to do so. The whole process had been

"This is an appalling abdication of the fundamental responsibility of the committee to hear an appeal properly and to come to a conclusion," he said. Miss Widdecombe abstained in a final vote on the report, while Mr Davies voted against it. She said Mr Hamilton should have been given a right of appeal. "What we have actually done is to leave the man on the crucial issue, the one on which he has suffered the most public vilification, without any verdict at all and with no right of appeal. I think that is not compatible with natural justice."

The committee's report revealed how hopelessly split the MPs had been on bow

THE OFFICIAL VERDICT

The committee's crucial finding was on the issue of whether Neil Hamilton took £28,000 in cash and Harrods vouchers from Mohamed Al Fayed in return for asking parliamentary questions - on which Sir Gordon Downey found "compelling" evidence of guilt.

The MPs could not agree on this, and reported that they "did not arrive at a practicable way of reaching a judgement which adds to or subtracts from the Commissioner's findings." They did agree that "Mr Hamilton's conduct fell seriously and persistently below" standards expected of MPs. Had he not lost his seat in May he would have been suspended for a substantial period.

Allegations admitted by Mr Hamilton, including undeclared hospitality at The Ritz Hotel and at Balnagown Castle - both owned by Mr Fayed - would have been sufficient to warrant this.

The committee disagreed on whether there should be a right of appeal, and will

Four out of the 10 agreed that the committee's own procedures were "unsatisfactory". Almost the only issue on which there was not a split vote was a crucial sentence stating that they could not find a way to judge Sir Gordon's finding on the cashfor-questions allegation.

But Mr Hamilton claimed that he had been cleared of the most serious charges. It was, he said, akin to "the difference be-

tween murder and a parking offence". "There is an awfully big difference beinterests. I do acknowledge there have been

some errors of judgement on my part and misunderstanding of the rules. But I refuse to accept allegations of dishonesty."

The former Tory MP continued: "It is a gross dereliction for the committee to brush this matter under the carpet on the grounds that they have neither the time nor the inclination, nor perhaps the ability, to resolve these unresolved matters."

Lord Nolan, whose report on standards in public life led to the setting up of the committee three years ago, said in a radio interview that he had recommended a right of appeal. "They have devolved more responsibility on Sir Gordon Downey for the purposes of the Neil Hamilton case than we envisaged. Why they did that, I do not

Charles Kennedy, the only Liberal Democrat member of the committee, said he believed the system of parliamentary selfregulation did not work, and that there should either be a form of judicial inquiry or a process similar to the criminal courts.

The report is a damning indictment of an individual, although the issue itself retween corruption and a failure to declare mains frustratingly unresolved to my own

Nolan reign ends on sour note

A row over the Government's decision to exempt Formula One from its tobacco sponsorship ban escalated yesterday amid revelations that the husband of the health minister, Tessa Joweli, had links with the sport. And, Fran Abrams reports, Lord Nolan became embroiled in the controversy.

Lord Nolan's spell as anti-sleaze watchdog ended in controversy yesterday after he told MPs that newspaper claims that he had been consulted on the best way forward for Tessa Jowell was untrue.

Lord Nolan, who was at a valedictory meeting with the Commons Public Administration Committee before his retirement this week, said he had not received any letters from the minister or her office. If he had, he would have sent a standard reply saying he did not deal with individual cases.

"I have asked our secretary to get on to Ms Jowell's office and find out what the source of this is. If the story is that she sought my advice ... she certainly hasn't received it," he said.

He added that the issue of guidance for ministers should be looked at by the Committee on Standards in Public Life under his successor, Sir Patrick Neill.

Later the Department of Health clarified its earlier statement by saying that Ms Jowell had written to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, in June explaining what action she had taken to ensure there was no conflict of interest. That correspondence had been copied to Lord Nolan, it said.

The row blew up after the Financial Times reported that Ms Jowell's husband. David Mills, had been a nonexecutive director of Benetton Formula, which takes tobacco sponsorship. He resigned shortly after the general election because he recognised the potential conflict of interest with his wife's role as minister for health. Although he still takes legal work from the company, he now refuses to act in any cases relating to tobacco sponsorship.

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The Tories' health spokesman, John Maples, seized on the revelation. saying he felt that in this case there had been a hint of impropriety.

But Ms Jowell said: "I have taken the greatest possible care to make sure that at every stage there is no possible conflict of interest. I have taken advice and I have acted on that advice. I think that any suggestion of any impropriety is deeply offensive."

Resist the Labour bias, Heseltine tells civil servants

Civil servants are being orrupted by the Sovernment's party political propaganda nachine, Michael ieseitine said yesterday. inthony Bevins, Political iditor, reports on a call o arms.

iir Robin Butler, head of the Iome Civil Service, and the Test Division Association of setior civil servants should resist with all their might" Labour's ttempt to politicise Whitetall, the former deputy prime ninister said yesterday.

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Speaking at a London conerence on publishing, he said hat the exodus of eight senior reformation officers since the election seemed more than a littie careless on Labour's part. As someone who had just left government, Mr Heseltine said he had worked with Whitehall information officers most days of his working week for the past 18 years, and he added: There was the clearest understanding that their job was

to present factual answers or policy guidance. "They were not there to advocate or enhance the interests of the Conservative Party, I can never remember the understanding causing any tension or indeed misunderstanding.

Any half-experienced minister knew where party political advocacy took over from the defence of government policy. he said, and, when it did, Conservative Central Office provided an excellent conduit to the media. But Mr Heseltine said: "I

deeply distrust any attempt now to blur the clear distinction that used to exist. "There can be only one pur-

pose behind the Labour Government's determination to politicise the Government Information Service," he added. "That purpose is to use their press officers to distribute propaganda as opposed to infor-

"It is a corrupting process that will inevitably draw the civil service deeply into party politics. It is not possible to draw a line in the sand between the civil servants who would work for this new breed of party hacks and the hacks them-

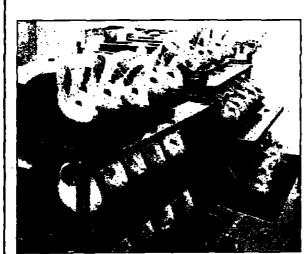
Mr Heseltine warned that the process would stimulate leaks, and bring an inevitable retaliatory backlash from the next Tory government.

"This unwelcome and divisive process will encourage civil servants unsympathetic to the government to leak contrary information to balance the books," he said.

"It will encourage any subsequent government to demand the resignation of men and women known to have been sympathetic to the outgoing regime.
"It will bring into question

the traditional independence of the Civil Service, particularly at election times."

Campaigners back animal test ban



Farewell to death row: Animals will be saved from testing for cosmetic products

Campaigners yesterday welcomed the end of animal experiments to test cosmetic products. The move was seen as an important step, even though it will only save about a tenth of the 2,800 animals killed each year to test cosmetics.

The ban, announced yesterday by Lord Williams, the Home Office minister, will at this stage only cover the testing of finished products, rather than the ingredients that make up the vast bulk of the experiments.

The decision, which was first revealed in The Independent on Wednesday, follows a dramatic about-turn by the Government who just two weeks ago said that cosmetic testing would have to continue, despite giving an election pledge to outlaw it.

Lord Williams said yesterday that his officials had contacted the three research companies carrying out cosmetic testing and they had agreed to stop. They will now examine which ingredients used exclusively in cosmetics can also be banned. In addition, 19,300 mice

could be saved next year when the Government intends to ban them from being infected with diseases to produce vaccines. Cosmetic testing only

makes up a tiny fraction of the 2.7 million animal experiments carried out for medical reasons each year. Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop, said: "At last we can celebrate a great

first step after 21 years of campaigning."

--- Jason Bennetto

Clarke, Kinnock and Jenkins raise the euro banner

Kenneth Clarke, Neil Kinnock and Lord lenkins vesterday joined forces to support the Euro. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says the cross-party alliance could be storing up trouble for William Hague.

The heavyweight trio of the former Tory Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, the European Commissioner and former Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, and Lord Jenkins, the Liberal Democrat leader in the House of Lords. yesterday joined forces to promote a cross-party alliance in support of a pro-European campaign, including the single currency.

The three were made vicepresidents of the European Movement, a cross-party grouping which includes backbench MPs from the three main parties and is dedicated to promoting Britain's interests in Europe.

Mr Clarke made a rallying call to other pro-Europeans across Britain to join the campaign. It came as he told a London conference of pro-European Tory MPs that the Conservative Party should not lurch towards "more fundamentalist" policies in a bid to distinguish itself from Labour.

He said the Government had made a series of mistakes on economic policy and said the

Tories needed to re-establish themselves as the party of mar-

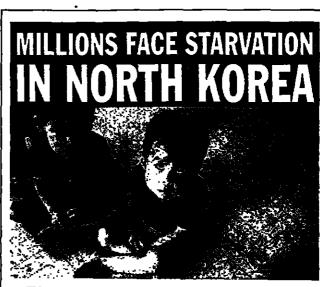
ket economics. Leaders of Conservative Mainstream strongly denied their conference was the beginning of a "party within a party" to challenge the more Euro-sceptic leadership of William Hague,

There were also concerted efforts to damp down speculation of a break-away and a rebellion next week by pro-Tory Europeans when the party leadership has insisted on a three-line whip to vote against the Government on the Amsterdam treaty. The Positive European

group, led by Peter Temple-Morris, the Tory MP who nearly defected to Labour, have decided as a group to back Mr Hague in voting against the Government, although some Conservative MPs may still

That could avoid a confrontation with the Tory leadership, and talk of Tory MPs losing the whip for refusing to vote with Mr Hague was being dismissed last night at West-

However, the determination of the group to challenge the leadership line on Europe was reaffirmed by Lord Howe, another former Chancellor. He attacked Mr Hague's rejection of the single currency for 10 years as a "purpose-free piece of ideological posturing" which was neither in Britain's national interest nor in the interests of the Conservative Party.



This winter may prove to have devastating consequences for the eople of North Korea. For the third consecutive year, a combination of floods and drought has ruined harvests and destroyed homes. In parts of the country, children are already having to live on a diet of tree bark and roots. Without urgent help, many will not survive the bitter cold of the North Korean winter.

You can do something to prevent huge numbers of children suffering. Just £26 could feed a family of four for two whole months.



Please call now with your credit card donation. 0171 201 5040

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Isaiah Berlín, philosopher and historian of ideas: born Riga, Latvia 6 June 1909; Lecturer, New College, Oxford 1932-38, Fellow 1938-50; Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford 1932-38, 1950-66, 1975-97; CBE 1946; Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory, Oxford University 1957-67; FBA 1957; Kt 1957; Vice-President, British Academy 1959-61, President 1974-78; President of Wolfson College, Oxford 1966-75; Professor of Humanities, City University of New York 1966-71; OM 1971; married 1956 Aline Halban (née de Gunzbourg; three stepsons); died Oxford 5

Isaiah Berlin was one of the most remarkable men of his time, and one of the leading liberal thinkers of the century. Philosopher, political theorist, historian of ideas; Russian, Englishman. Jew: essayist, critic. teacher; he was a man of formidable intellectual power with a rare gift for understanding a wide range of human motives, hopes and fears, and a prodigiously energetic capacity for enjoyment - of life, of people in all their variety, of their ideas and idiosyncrasies, of literature, of music of art.

His defence and refinement of what he saw as the most essential conception of freedom has achieved classic status, and the presence and character of this conception in the modern mind is due in no small measure to him. He also identified and developed, with considerable originality, a pluralist view of ultimate human ideals that supports his liberal stance, and deserves to become just as deeply embedded in our outlook.

In contrast to the great majority of ideologies and creeds, he argued that not all values can be jointly realised in one life, or in a single society or period of history, and that many ideals cannot even be compared on a common scale; so that there can be no single objective ranking of ends, no uniquely right set of principles by which to live.

From this it follows not only that people should be free (within the crucial but rather broad limits set by the demands of sheer humanity), both individually and collectively, to adopt their own guiding priorities and visions of life; but also, perhaps more radically, that a perfect, frictionless society, as well as being impossible in practice, is in principle incoherent as an ideal. Insights of this kind may seem unstartling to some today, but this, Berlin maintained, is a more recent, less widespread and less secure development than might be supposed; it is a beneficent one, and may be laid partly at his door.

Like other great men he was a catalyst of excellence. Those who have had the good fortune to know him can testify to the strikingly positive, enlarging, warming experience of being in his company and listening to his irrepressible flow of captivating talk. He was legendary as a talker both for his imitable rapid, syllable-swallowing diction and for his inimitable range - he was astonishingly widely read in a number of languages, he knew (and deeply influenced) a great many prominent men and women in England and elsewhere, and he peppered his conversation and writings with a bewildering cascade of names. (This was not name-dropping: the names were a shorthand for their bearers' ideas.)

Though he spent his whole professional life, apart from his war service, as an Oxford academic, he did not suffer from parochialism, and moved with equal ease in the many worlds be inhabited, often simultaneously, surviving day after day, without flagging, a punishing schedule of commitments and diversions. He lectured to learned and distinguished audiences in many countries, talked to undergraduate societies (not only in Oxford), colleges of education and sixth forms, and gave generously of his time to the growing number of those who made demands on it: former students with problems, scholars studying his work, strangers who sought his advice or help in connection with projects of their own.

He was often heard on the radio.

especially the Third Programme, and gave numerous interviews, particularly to foreign journalists. He positively relished what others would have found intolerable pressures and, though he was perfectly serious when the occasion demanded brought a sometimes impish sense of fun to everything that he undertook.

He was not, and would not have wished to be, any kind of saint, but he had in abundance what he called in others "moral charm". This quality was particularly striking in his manner of conversation, which could unsettle those new to it. He did not stick to the point, but would sit back, look up, and follow his interest where it led, happily digressing, digressing from digressions, and unceremoniously returning to the topic of his own previous remarks, or changing the subject, apparently oblivious of what his interlocutor may have been saying, even at some length, in the interim.

This last idiosyncrasy might have seemed impolite in other hands, but in him it was clearly unselfconscious, and demonstrated his absorption in the issue before his mind, which he would pursue almost playfully, often in odd directions. Although talking to him made one's mind race, it could be infuriating if one wanted to sort out some problem and come to a clear conclusion, and he was not always an attentive listener - sometimes because he had a shrewd idea of what one was going to say before one had said it.

He had no taste for purely verbal word-play, but his wit, in the wider sense, was matchless. He could be bewilderingly quick on the uptake, and equally quick with an illuminating response. He was refreshingly direct and, for a man of his generation, unusually open: he made the obsessive circumspection of some parts of the Oxford establishment seem mean and life-denying by comparison. Gossip and anecdote abounded, but not malevolently: indeed, he was virtually incapable of innuendo, and did not seek to score points. Even when he propounded an unfavourable view of someone, it could seem more like a move in a game than a damning judgement.

He loved ranking people, and sorting them into types: most famously, hedgehogs and foxes ~ those in the grip of a single, allembracing vision as against those who are more receptive to variousness. Indeed, his taste for lighthearted categorisation was an informal manifestation of his ability to extract and display the essence of a person or a difficult writer.

As a lecturer he had complete spellbinding to listen to (fortunately several of his lectures were recorded, and can be heard at the National Sound Archive). He was consciously but not self-consciously Jewish, and a lifelong Zionist: his views counted for a good deal in Israel. He was a director of Covent Garden and a devoted opera-goer; he was a trustee of the National Gallery. He did not lack recognition - a knighthood, the OM, many honorary doctorates, the Mellon Lectureship, the Presidency of the British Academy, the Jerusalem, Erasmus, Agnelli and Lippincott Prizes - but always protested that he was being given more than his due, that his achievements had been systematically overestimated. He was larger than life, entirely sui generis, a phenomenon, irreplaceable.

Isaiah Berlin was born in 1909 to Russian-speaking Jewish parents in Riga, capital of Latvia. His father, Mendel, owned a timber business (chiefly providing sleepers for the Russian railways); he and his wife Marie were lively, cultured people, enthusiastically interested in the arts. They bequeathed their enthusiasm in full measure to their only surviving child, whose love of music in particular, especially but by no means only opera, was a thread of deep and growing importance to him which ran through his life from boyhood onwards.

In 1915 the German army was closing on Riga, and the Berlins moved to Russia. They lived first in Andreapol, then, from 1917, in Petrograd, where in that year Isaiah witnessed both the Social-Democratic



(Derek Hill: an appreciation, Quartet Books, 1987), 'were with Sir Isaiah Berlin . . . Conversations ranged from theatre in Russia in the Thirties to life with Bernard Berenson interspersed with: "Now do I have my right leg over my left leg or my left leg over my right leg?" '

and the Bolshevik Revolutions. On one occasion he saw a terrified, white-faced man being dragged and kicked through the streets by a mob; this was a formative experience which left him with an ineradicable loathing of any form of violence. In 1920 the Berlins returned to Latvia, under a treaty with the Communists. and Mendel decided to move to England, where he had friends and business connections.

Arriving in early 1921, they lived first in Surbiton, then in London, in Kensington. After prep school Isaiah went to St Paul's and, without ever losing touch with his Russian or Jewish identities, continued a thoroughgoing process of Anglicisation that enabled him to become a prominent figure in the English culture of his day. In 1928 he went up as a scholar

to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He took Firsts in Greats and PPE in 1931 and 1932. Thereafter he was interviewed (unsuccessfully) for the Manchester Guardian and started to read for the Bar; but Richard Crossman, then a don at New College, gave him his first post, as a lecturer in philosophy. Almost immediately he was also elected to a fellowship at All Souls which ran concurrently with his lectureship until 1938, when he became a Fellow of New College. It was during this first spell at All Souls that he wrote his brilliant biographical study of Marx (Karl Marx: his life and environment, 1939) for the Home University Library: ironically he was by no means the editors' first choice for the job.

During the early years of the Second World War, Berlin continued to teach. Then, in 1941, he was sent to New York by the Ministry of Information. In 1942 he was transferred to the Foreign Office, which he served until 1946 (apart from a few months in Moscow) at the British Embassy in Washington as head of a team charged with reporting the changing political mood of the United States. The despatches sent to Whitehall from Washington, not in his name but mostly drafted by him, attracted the attention of Winston Churchill, and have long had a reputation for their brilliance; a selection was published (as Washington Despatches 1941-1945, edited by

Berlin has written most engagingly about aspects of these years: in particular, his descriptions of his meetings in Russia with Boris Pasternak, Anna Akhmatova and other writers are extremely moving. His encounter with Anna Akhmatova had an especially profound effect on him; and the many passages about him in Akhmatova's poems bear witness to its fundamental significance for her. "He will not be a beloved husband to me / But what we accomplish, he and I, / Will disturb the Twentieth Century": she was convinced that there was a direct link between Stalin's reaction to their meeting in 1945 and the beginning of the Cold War

H.G. Nicholas) in 1981.

By the end of the war Berlin had decided that he wanted to give up philosophy for the history of ideas, "a field in which one could hope to know more at the end of one's life

than when one had begun". In 1950, with this in view, he returned to All Souls, where in 1957 he was elected to the Chichele chair of Social and Political Theory in succession to G.D.H. Cole. His inaugural lecture, Two Concepts of Liberty, is his bestknown and most influential work, in which with great passion and subtlety he stands up for "negative" liberty - freedom from obstruction by others, freedom to follow one's own choices - and shows how easily "positive" liberty, the (desirable) freedom of self-mastery, is perverted into the "freedom" to achieve "self-realisation" according to criteria laid down and often forcibly imposed by self-appointed arbiters of the true ends of human life.

His account has remained an indispensable reference-point for thought about freedom ever since, and permeates all informed discussion of the subject; nevertheless, perhaps partly because of the unassertive and deliberately unsystematic nature of his ideas, and his rejection of panaceas of any kind, he did not (to his relief) in any narrow sense acquire disciples or found a school of thought.

The year before his election to the chair, abandoning his apparently settled bachelor existence, he had married Aline Halban (daughter of the eminent European banker Pierre de Gunzbourg), perfectly described by Lord Goodman as "a lady of grace and distinction". In his late forties he had found the partner who would be the linchpin of his life from that time onwards; and, in his three stepsons (he had no chil-

dren of his own), a mutually devoted family. He always recommended

marriage to others. In 1966 Berlin became the first President of the newly founded Oxford graduate college, Wolfson, relinquishing his professorship the following year. Wolfson College, where he remained until his "retirement" in 1975, came into existence in its present form and under its present name (it began as Iffley College) only as a result of his efficacy as fund-raiser and charismatic inspirer of new institutional forms, traditions and loyalties. The generosity of the Wolfson and Ford Foundations in funding the building and endowment of the college was in direct response to his personal involvement

Wolfson apart, Berlin's chief legacy to the future is what he wrote: a large, enormously varied ceuvre of unmistalcable style and penetration. In his own, reasonable, estimation his most important work is represented by his exploration of four fields of enquiry: liberalism; pluralism; 19th-century Russian thought, and the origins and development of the Romantic movement. Under all these headings he shed much new light, and the way he did so still retains the power to excite which it had when his contributions were first made public.

For most of his life his reputation as a writer lagged behind his actual output, much of which was in the form of occasional essays ("I am like a taxi: I have to be hailed"), often published obscurely. Comparatively little had appeared in book form principally Karl Marx. The Hedgehog and the Fox (1953, a long essay on Tolstoy's view of history) and the collection Four Essays on Liberty (1969), which included his inaugural lecture. But then in 1976 came Vico and Herder, and shortly thereafter four volumes of collected

essays (1978-80). These books gave the lie to a remark made by his friend Maurice Bowra when Berlin was appointed to the Order of Merit in 1971: Though like Our Lord and Socrates he does not publish much, he thinks and says a great deal and has had an enormous influence on our times." Other volumes followed in the 1990s, including two devoted to work he had left unpublished when it was first written, and, in February this year, The Proper Study of Mankind, a retrospective anthology of his best work.

By contrast with Bowra's case, a good deal of Berlin's way of speaking is captured, happily, in his published work, which is imbued with ing that it is the impact of ideas of his personality and sets forth his car- people's lives that give them the dinal intellectual preoccupations with the greatest clarity and fecundity, if often through the medium of

his enquiries into the ideas of others. One of the most attractive characteristics of his writing is that he is never merely the detached scholar, never forgetful that the point of the enquiry, in the end, is to increase understanding and moral insight. Since, as another friend, Noël Annan, has put it, "He will always use two words where one will not do", his message - a notion he would have hated - is impossible to summarise without losing all of its characteristic mode of expression. But its centrai content can be baidly stated.

Berlin once described the main burden of his work as "distrust of all claims to the possession of incorrigible knowledge about issues of fact or principle in any sphere of human behaviour". His most fundamental conviction, which he applauded when he discerned it in the writings of others, and adopted in an enriched form as his own, was that there can never be any single, universal, final, complete, demonstrable answer to the most ultimate moral question of all: How should men live? This he presents as a denial of one of the oldest and most dominant assumptions of Western thought, expressed in its most uncompromising form in the 18th century under the banner of the French Enlightenment.

Contrary to the Enlightenment vision of an eventual orderly and untroubled synthesis of all objectives and aspirations, Berlin insisted that there exists an indefinite number of

competing and often irreconcilable ultimate values and ideals between which each of us often has to make a choice - a choice which, precise. ly because it cannot be given a conclusive rational justification, must not be forced on others, however committed we may be to it ourselves. "Life may be seen through many windows, none of them necessarily clear or opaque, less or more distorting than any of the others." Each individual, each culture,

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each nation, each historical period has its own goals and standards, and these cannot be combined, practically or theoretically, into a single coherent overarching system in which all ends are fully realised without loss, compromise or clashes. The same tension exists within each individual consciousness. More equality may mean less excellence, or less liberty; justice may obstruct mercy; honesty may exclude kindness; selfknowledge may impair creativity or happiness, efficiency inhibit spontaneity. But these are not temporary local difficulties: they are general, indelible and sometimes tragic features of the moral landscape; tragedy, indeed, far from being the result of avoidable error, is an endemic feature of the human condition. Instead of a splendid synthesis there must be a permanent, at times painful, piecemeal process of untidy tradeoffs and careful balancings of contradictory claims.

Intimately connected with this phyralist thesis - sometimes mistaken for relativism, which he rejected, and which is in fact quite distinct - is a belief in freedom from interference, especially by those who think they know better, that they can choose for us in a more enlightened way than we can choose for ourselves.

Berlin's pluralism justifies his deep-seated rejection of coercida and manipulation by authoritarians and totalitarians of all kinds: Conmunists, Fascists, bureaucrats, mil sionaries, terrorists, revolutionaries and all other despots, levellers, syltematisers or purveyors of "organ ised happiness". Like one of his heroes, the Russian thinker Alexan der Herzen, many of whose cha acteristics he manifested himsel. Berlin had a borror of the sacrific that have been exacted in the name of Utopian ideals due to be realise at some unspecifiable point in the distant future: real people should no have to suffer and die today for the sake of a chimera of eventu universal bliss.

Berlin always discussed thes ideas in terms of specific individu als, not in the abstract, remembe point. Here he was served by his ur usual capacity for imaginative idea tification with people whose vision of life varied greatly and were ofte distant from his own. This enable him to write rich and convincin accounts of a wide range of figure historical and contemporary: B linsky, Hamann, Herder, Herzer Machiavelli, Maistre, Tolstoy, Turger ev, Vico; Churchill, Namier, Roos velt, Weizmann: and many others

His descriptions of those wit whom he is in the closest sympatl often have a marked autobio graphical resonance: he said of oth ers, with dazzling virtuosity, what i would not have been willing to sa of himself, what he probably did no believe of himself, though his word sometimes fit him precisely. Had h been sufficiently interested in his life and opinions for their own sakes, would have been his own ideal i ographer; but he would also hav been a different man.

Isaiah Berlin was often describe especially in his old age, by mean of superlatives: the world's greater talker, the century's most inspire reader, one of the finest minds of ou time - even, indeed, a genius. It ma be too early to be sure about suc strong claims. But there is no doub that he showed in more than one di rection the unexpectedly large pos sibilities open to us at the top end of the range of human potential, and the power of the wisely directed in tellect to illuminate, without undue solemnity or needless obscurity, the ultimate moral questions that fact mankind.

Henry Hards

BIRTHS

JAGGS: On 23 October to Richard and

DEATHS

BERLIN: On 5 November at the Arland Hospital, Oxford, Sir Isaiah Berlin, aged 88. Husband of Aline and stepfather of Michel Strauss, Peand steplather of Michel Strauss, Peter Halban and Philippe Halban. Funeral private.

FALK: John Anderson died peacefuliv on 23 October aged 87 at home in Wilishire. Private cremation. Memorial to be announced.

LAZAR: Leonard on Tuesday 4 November, barrister, poet, artist and musician, dearly loved husband of Primrose. Funeral at Kerno Chapel, Penniout Crematorium. Truro. Wednesday 12 November, 12.30pm.

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES**

& DEATHS

Inquiries to F/D; R₂D, Burroughs; Penzance, telephone 01736 364062.

IN MEMORIAM HEATHER-HAYES: Jim. Died tragically 7 July 1982, aged 18, Remem bered with love on his birthday.

Announcements for Gazette Birtits, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be tele-phoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour ac-swering machine 0171-293 2012) or facad to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Mr Ian Balding, racehorse trainer, 59; Mr John Barnes, footballer, 34; Air Marshal Sir John Donald, 70; Sir John Egan, chief executive, BAA, 58; The Rev Professor Christopher Evans, New Testament scholar, 88: Dr Billy Graham, evangelist, 79; Mr James Gray MP, 43; Mrs Lucinda Green, Olympic horsewoman, 44; Lord Greenhill of Harrow, former head of the Diplomatic Service, 84; Mr John Grieves, senior partner, Freshfields, 62; Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt, Director-General, Chamber of Shipping, 67; Mr Michael Jackaman, n, Allied Domecq, 62; Dame Charman, Amed Donned, G.; Bain-Gwyneth Jones, operatic soprano, 61; Mr Wolf Mankowitz, author and playwright, 73; Mr Charles Miller Smith, chief executive, ICI, 58; Miss

Joni Mitchell, singer, 54; Mr Jonathan Palmer, racing driver, 41; Miss Su Pollard, actress, 48; Miss Jean Shrimpton, former model, 55; Air Marshal Sir Ronald Stuart-Paul, former Director-General, Saudi Air Force Project, 63; Dame Joan Sutherland, operatic soprano, 71: Mrs Helen Suzman, politician, 80; Dame Jean Taylor, former Chief Clerk, Office of the Private Secretary to the Queen, 81; Sir Anthony Who mer President, Royal Scottish Academy, 78; Baroness White, former

Anniversaries

Births: Francisco de Zurbaran, painter, 1598; William Stukeley, physician and antiquarian, 1687;

Marie Curie (Manya Sklodowska), the fourth time, 1944; Richard Nixon physicist, 1867; Leon Trotsky (Leiba Davidov Bronstein), Russian Communist leader, 1879; Albert Camus, novelist and playwright, 1913. Deaths: Sir Godfrey Kneiler (Got-Feast Day of St Engelbert, St Florentius of Strasbourg, St Herculanus of Perugia and St Willibrord. tfried Kniller), painter, 1723; Jean-Marc Nattier, portrait painter, 1766; Alfred Russel Wallace, explorer and naturalist, 1913; Anna Eleanor Roo-Lectures sevelt, writer and lecturer, 1962: National Gallery: Nicholas Penny, "Pocket Guides (1): picture frames", John Carmel Heenan, Cardinal, RC Archbishop of Westminster, 1975; Terrence Steven (Steve) McQueen,

was elected president of the US for

actor, 1980; Alexander Dubcek, Tate Gallery: Simon Wilson, "Aubrey Beardsley: symbolist and decadent". Ipm. Gresham College, Baruard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Colin an, 1992. On this day: the last public hanging in England took place at Tytura. 1783; Woodrow Wilson was elected as president of the US, Pillinger. "Death of the Dinosturs -1916: Franklin Delano Roosevelt

a Geological Whodunnit", Ipm.

was re-elected as president of the US, 1972; Mrs Mary Robinson became the and Technology first woman prime minister of the Irish Republic, 1990. Today is the Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman

Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society last night. Professor W.P.T. James, Mr Michael P. Mackenzie and Ms Sheila McKechnie spoke on "A Food Agency for Britain?" Others present included:

Foundation for Science

included:
Lord Campbell of Croy, Baronez, Dawd, Lord
De Ranssay, Lord Flowers, Baronas Hilton,
Lord Howie of Troom, Lady Kennet, Lord
Nathan, Lord Perry of Walton, Sir Geoffrey,
Alten, Sir Amsin Bale, Professor Sir Rom Hundell, Professor Dame Barbara Clayton, the
Hon Sir Hugh Laddie, Dr Jan Gibson MP, Mr
Marryn Jones MP, Dr Ashok Kumar MP, Dr
Dung Nayamith MP, Mrs Caroline Spelman
MP and Professor Peter Lachmann.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard reschuld Caraby Montaed R con's Life Guard at Morne G

You are (probably) still gay if you ...



Mirror, mirror: every day it gets a little harder to know if you're gay or not. Camp? Children's TV does it better than Julian Clary. Culture-defining harbingers of polymorphous perversity and gender abdication? Please: the nation has the Teletubbies. Red ribbons? Too passé. Signs and signifiers once thought fixed are going, going, gone. So don't be surprised if this last gasp list becomes either out-of-date or, indeed, wholly redundant long before you reach the end.

Aren't sure if cocktails should be drunk

Own a can of nipple polish; Laugh all the way through Platoon Wonder if Donna Summer will ever have that recipe again, ob no; Have already seen Chicago;

Are impatient for the dance remixes of "Candle in the Wind":

Never use wire coat hangers, ever; Get out of the shower, wrap a towel around your head and imitate Whitney Houston in the bathroom mirror (Oh, right, sure you haven't ...);

Think nothing of: shaving your chest, waxing your back, taking a Fly-mo to your lobes, or staying in the entire weekend if you get a spot;

Know all the words to "I Am Sixteen (Going on Seventeen)"; Speak two languages: English and Gucci;

Have told the builders to install a trapdoor beside your bed; Can discuss Uma Thurman's work in Bat-

man and Robin in a rich, deep and meaningful way; Are never tempted to jump up and

touch the awning; Spent four years painting one ceiling (see:

Michelangelo): Tell people that Clint Eastwood played Dorothy in The Golden Girls. Well, has anyone ever seen him and Bea Arthur in the

Spell boys with a "z"; Can always find a good reason to buy yet another tight black top; Have suggested a threesome on the first

Named the cats Lorna and Liza; Know your ankles like the backs of your

Own more than five items made of:

leather rubber:

Remove the Mapplethorpe prints when Mummy visits:

Are confused when people use Crisco for

Check out every mirror you pass; Have women friends:

Believe your taste is impeccable, even when it's bad;

Are willing to dash all the way home just to spray some Impulse Spice behind your knees: Have subscriptions to GQ, Men's Health,

Hello! Metropolitan Home, Variety and Boy Read your godchildren Jenny Lives With

Eric and Martin at bedtime;

Know that the jockstrap was invented by Parvo Nakacheker: Own a "drag bag", a tasty-cum-tacky

frock, some lippie, a little panstick, a pushup bra, perhaps pearls and high heels ... Just the basics for the occasional girl's night out; Believe pork is a verb;

Are a regular sufferer of "weepy Wednesday", the tearful midweek comedown from last Saturday's drugs'n dancing extravaganza (for your information and safety, it is best not to be served by staff at certain London fashion emporiums while they are in this condition. Unless you enjoy having your purchase flung back in your face accompanied by a cry of "You look really crap in this and I haven't had my lunch break yet");

Think Philadelphia was cheesy; Bought the 1998 Take That calendar (Think about it):

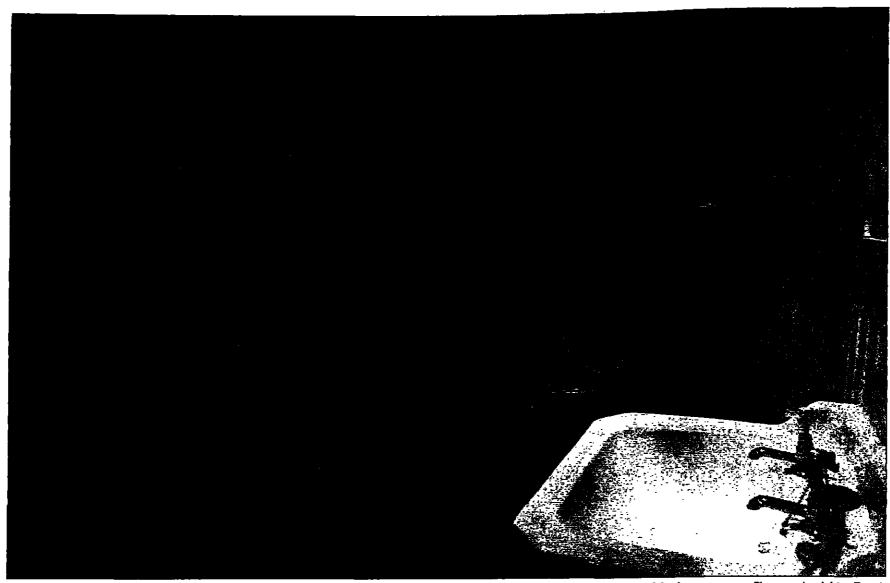
Have a soft spot for Princess Margaret; Know Mrs Overall's first name; Are the only person at the dinner table to have had their piercings removed; Can't remember what Peter Andre's

Have grown emotionally attached to face looks like: your sex toys;

Find yourself seriously debating Dannii Don't mind grey days, as it's this season's vs Kylie:

Queued at Our Price this Monday to buy Dion and Streisand's "Tell him"; Are still in mourning for Dynasty.

Phew. Give that woman a decoration



Linda Barker: 'Once I start decorating it would take a bit of an earthquake or a major tantrum to shake me from my vision'

Linda Barker could revolutionise your sitting-room with a few sheets of MDF, a pot of lilac paint and an old tree branch. The star of the TV series 'Changing Rooms' invited Ann Treneman for a good

nose around her own house in south London.

Linda Barker is not just any Changing Rooms and the author of almost a dozen books. She knows how to do amazing things with MDF and only needs a few bits of copper pipe to make a four-poster bed. She manages to make DIY look sexy and has a lot to teach a woman like myself who views putting up a shelf as a major engineering project. But I am not in the mood to learn as I stand on her doorstep in deepest SE23. I am

in the mood to snoop. I have always been a dècor voyeur, but then I think most of us are. Witness those people who spend all their free time going round houses on the pretext that they may be buyers. In reality, of course, they are frantically clocking the paint effects and wondering if they too shouldn't try a dado this year. All readers of Hello! are dècor voyeurs - the words are just wallpaper for the wallpaper, really - and so are each and

The programme follows two sets of neighbours as they transform a room in each other's homes, each egged on by a designer.

"The British are very nosey people," says Linda Barker. "People love to be nosey and the programme lets them into people's houses." I nod, but my mind is really

on her kitchen. It is light, airy, sunny. "Is that rag-rolled?" I ask, looking at a wall that seems says, explaining about how you the computer's thesaurus. Lininterior designer. She is a star do four coats and it's no trouble, da has just published yet anof the hit BBC programme really. A hand-painted olive other book, this one called Just branch drifts across one wall. The only sign of her five-yearold daughter. Jessica, are some a hurry. "But we can't use the chocolate fingers set out on the bleached wood island that serves as a sort of giant chopping board. I nibble on one and then another.

"Did you do this yourself?" I ask in a small voice. "Hmm, yes, the whole house really." At this point, I abandon all attempts at interviewing her

about the book she has just written on Changing Rooms and ask for a tour. She complies and is obviously a bit of a pro at this. She and her husband moved to the large Victorian house in Forest Hill from a tiny flat in Battersea. It has five bedrooms, high ceilings and wide hallways. It came with the proviso that it needed modernisation. In the end, it needed a whole lot more than that - Linda spares me the details, it is clear that it was not a picnic - but now it is

Rooms everywhere - a painted gingham wall in her daughter's bedroom, a hand-blocked blind in the playroom, the Italian calligraphy flowing over her bedroom walls, the fake four-poster in the spare room. The upstairs bathroom is graffiti'd in Latin and reads: "You look like someone who knows a good thing

when you see it." We stumble upon her husband in the study looking up to be dappled. "Frescoed," she alternative words for "junk" in that she is doing another one in word junk again," she explains.

I ned, though I don't really understand why this is not possible. But by this time I'm begirning to understand that I understand nothing about intetior design and that there is a little more to it than a fresh coat of primrose white and a trip to Habitat for some hand-tied cur-

But I have also figured out that Linda herself is a bit of a designaholic. After our interview she is heading off to Winchester to record another television programme, called Change That, in which she has four hours to transform a piece of furniture. She is an art school graduate who is now 36 and having too much fun. She doesn't like to stand still or look back, particularly. The thrill is in the doing.

She has just finished filming

so viewers of Changing Rooms. I see bits of the Changing Rooms that will be shown in January.

"I just love the fast turnaround of design. For me it's a bit of a dream, being given a room and being told to throw £500 at it, design it, change it as much as you can. That is a joy."

She thrives on deadlines three rooms in her own home only got done on time because they were going to be photographed for a magazine the next a branch she'd hung on the ceilday - and diversity. "I mean, for ing to dangle lights through. "I

grease and makes for compulsive viewing. Linda insists that there are

rarely any real problems. though, with prodding, she does admit to the occasional tiff. There was the one time when the couple hated the room and said so, on camera. Then there was a bit of a controversy about

Caribbean houseboat. That was there. I'd spent all my money fantastic. People let us into already so I did that," she said. their rooms and allow us to do In the end, she says, they came whatever!"

Not quite. What actually

this new series I did a needed something dramatic up round.

Then there is the delicate happens on Changing Rooms is matter of the couple she is that the neighbours tell a de- working with. They can get signer like Linda what they worried and want you to adapt think the people who actually colours, say. I can think of one live there would like. The de- time that I had picked a blue. signer then goes away and It was very tasteful and we comes up with a plan that can were painting it below a dado. every one of the six million or pretty ab-fab by any standard. the new series of Changing be achieved in two days with a We had done this fake tongue- Books at £16,99.

budget of £500. This requires a and-groove wall panelling that lot of people-skills and elbow we'd spent ages on. The woman was very anxious about the colour and got a little bit sulky." So sulky, in fact, that she put down her paintbrush and went into a huddle with her husband, had-mouthing the colour. Of course. Linda knew that it would be fine (which it was) as soon as the fabric with the red was added to the room.

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The worst is when even the crew starts to doubt her vision. Linda herself never does - except for the time she decided the shade of lilac really was too much like a bar of soap - and sticks to her original plan like stucco.

"By the time I have come round to decorating it would take a bit of an earthquake, really, or a major tantrum to shake me from my vision. So, yeah, I am very confident. Thank God, or I would be a quivering wreck." It is at this moment that I re-

alise Changing Rooms would make me a quivering wreck. The book shows 16 room makeovers and it is worrying that I feel more comfortable with some of the "before" pictures. I have visions of my nice (but sad) primrose kitchen being turned into something exciting, hot and Mexican. This is a tough game. I realise, though I can't help but take a final snoop at her lovely green hall with matt black radiators as I leave.

Linda Barker's 'Changing Rooms is published by BBC

To Felicity she left turquoise shoes. To Rose, a scarf

Janet Ahlberg, magical illustrator of children's books, died in 1994, age 50, of breast cancer. Her husband/collaborator Allan Ahlberg has made a new book about her and her work. This is how he

begins...

It is September, nine o'clock one morning. I have taken up her breakfast tray: porridge, maple syrup, glass of milk, plus a few other things: Tylex and Votarol for the pain, Zantac to

side the bed. Janet sips her milk through a straw. She looks at me, mildly - her usual gaze, then past me, over my shoulder to something on the mantelpiece. "Rose'd like that scarf," she

ter chemotherapy.

Some people, as their lives go by, acknowledge death, talk of it, let it out and look at it from time to time. Others, the mato stay mum. Jan was one of these. She had been gripped by breast cancer for almost two years. It had spread to her bones and now her liver. Well,

protect her stomach lining from tic and knew the score. She had some of the other drugs, Max- her massive fears and tiny olon and Kytril for sickness afhopes (until the very end), but nothing else. Until this day. The sun comes in at the win-"Rose'd like that scarf," she dow. I pull up a chair and sit be-

I knew entirely what she meant. It was her first bequest. So Jan began to deal with death. Typically, for her, she approached it first with presents. She had a small notebook, a page per person. Often the items were drawn as well as listed. There was, however, no particular system. The whole thing was simply driven by her powjority perhaps, don't, preferring erful memory. She just recalled that someone once had expressed a liking for something: "Byron: Fish poster in studio", or was present when something else was bought: "Felicishe had read the books and ty: Turquoise shoes with heels



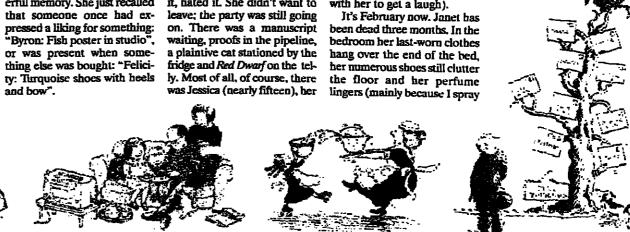
Janet dealt with death, faced it. hated it. She didn't want to

beloved daughter. The days it around from time to time). to a little patch, a few hours in the afternoon downstairs on the chesterfield. A couple of times she spoke

of her own funeral. Jan was not religious. She wanted a secular ceremony and burial in the local cemetery. It was her wish that family and friends would gather together, sing a bit and speak for her. She wasn't solemn either. At one point, smiling her slight, sly smile, she said, "Tell Graham he's allowed to say 'bum'" (guaranteed with her to get a laugh).

passed. Janet's life was shrunk On the mantelpiece: some tale, some rings, a foolish-looking knitted rabbit and a polystyrene head with a wig on it, bought just in case and luckily (!) not needed. There is a box of bargain jewels ... but no scarf.

> 'Janet's Last Book' by Allan Ahlberg, published this week by Penguin at £9,99













Brown envelopes or no, Parliament cannot police itself



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Is it not time for Neil Hamilton to get off the stage? After all, we know what we think about him. Anyone who has taken any time at all to follow his wrongdoings knows that he does not deserve to be an MP. Indeed, the electors of Tatton in Cheshire took that view and sent him for his pension on 1 May this year. As certain as British public opinion is that Louise Woodward is not guilty of premeditated murder, it is certain that Mr Hamilton is guilty of taking backhanders and lying about it,

End of story? Time to consign the bowtied Thatcherite and his vengeful wife to the attic of parliamentary scandals, along with Jeremy Thorpe, Jack Profumo and John Stonehouse? Not quite. Sure, he is guilty, but let us be clear what he is guilty of, and get it clear according to the rules of justice, because the House of Commons has stumbled in its attempt to hold its members to new, improved ethical standards. It almost defies belief that MPs could have managed to miscarry justice in the very case which forced the last government to appoint Lord Nolan in the first place.

The sleaze-busting peer himself was the model of restraint yesterday, commenting gently that his successor as the guardian of standards in public life, Sir Patrick Neill, will "no doubt" want to "look again at the procedure which the House of Commons has adopted in this case". Too right, he will. Instead of getting the miserable Mr Hamilton banged to rights, MPs have allowed him to complain - correctly - that he has been denied the right fully to challenge the evidence against him and to appeal against the findings.

This matters, not simply because Mr Hamilton, however unpopular, is entitled to a fair trial, but because the issue so dominated the early stages of the general election campaign earlier this year, and helped turn a landslip into a Labour

HURRAY!

landslide. If Labour's electoral advantage were built on an injustice, democracy has

Let us rehearse the central facts. In 1994, after the "cash for questions" scandal broke, John Major asked Lord Nolan to rewrite the rules on ethical standards in public life. Sir Gordon Downey was appointed as a kind of investigating magistrate on behalf of a "court" of MPs on the Standards and Privileges Committee.

The election intervened while Sir Gordon compiled his 900-page report, and the voters were treated to the pathetic spectacle of the Prime Minister trying to force Mr Hamilton to resign and then, instead of disowning him, declaring him "innocent until proved guilty".

Mr Hamilton was unfit to be an MP on the grounds of the offences which he admitted: failing to declare a stay at the Ritz or an interest in the tobacco products he promoted, and lying to the Deputy Prime Minister when cornered. So Mr Hamilton in particular, and the Tories in general, deserved to suffer the electoral consequences.

But on the most serious charge, that of taking thousands of pounds in brown envelopes from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods, Mr Major was right. and that remains the position today. Mr Hamilton is only guilty by association with Tim Smith, the Tory MP who admitted taking money in similar circumstances. Otherwise, it is Mr Hamilton's word against Mr Al Fayed's.

In spite of the fact that the only witnesses to the alleged transactions were Mr Al Fayed's employees, Sir Gordon found that there was "compelling evidence" that Mr Hamilton took the money. In yesterday's report, the committee of MPs contradicted the Commissioner. There "can be no absolute proof that such payments were, or were not, made". So was Mr Hamilton to receive the benefit of "reasonable doubt"? No. Boldly facing both ways, the committee declared that it "did not arrive at a practicable way of reaching a judgment which adds to or subtracts from the Commissioner's findings". A masterpiece of evasion, and a conclusive, final argument for the policing of ethical standards to be taken out of the hands of MPs.

The committee was under an obligation to reach a conclusion one way or the other, if necessary by re-examining witnesses already interviewed by Sir Gordon. If they think that would be a waste of time and public money, they should acquit Mr Hamilton and draw attention to all the other misdemeanours he has admitted. If they think he took the money, then they should say so and give him the right of appeal. The defects of a system in which MPs are expected to police themselves remain fundamental. What do they want? Bring in the

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 203 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-muil correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

'People's opera'

Sir: Surely, if a "people's opera" means anything, it means providing world-class performances of a wide range of operas at prices that do not exclude anyone from attending. You don't create such a thing by more than halving the number of performances by the two main opera companies in London ("The death of the Royal Opera House¹, 4 November).

There are legitimate criticisms of the management of the Royal Opera House but the quality of the work produced there is genuinely world class. The companies deserve to be judged on the quality of their work, not simply on the quality of their management, Furthermore, despite popular misconceptions, at every performance of the Royal Opera there are a significant number of tickets available at £7 or less. I know, because I buy them. High prices in other parts of the House are entirely a result of the low level of public subsidy received by the company.

How will English National Opera continue to be as accessible as it is, in a theatre that has a third fewer seats? Either prices will go up or the range of the work it does will diminish. Without increased subsidy to all the companies, prices will remain high.

By effectively making these companies homeless, the talent brought together in all three been urgent; should Mr Smith's companies will drift away to companies and countries that take the arts seriously. An operatic heritage of over 50 years will be destroyed and we will all be the poorer for it. DAVID CLOKE

London SE4

Sir: One point has yet to be made with regard to Chris Smith's suggestion to make Covent Garden a "receiving house" for three major companies. Such a plan would make the Royal Ballet's position insupportable.

It has always suffered from having to share the house with an opera company, thus having to restrict the number of its performances and being too often (for instance) unable to give aspirant dancers the opportunity to dance major roles in London. The company's need for its own dance house in London has for many years

plan be adopted, it will be im-

Foxhunting

London W14

DEREK PARKER

perative.

Sir: Henry Best's argument (Letters, 6 November) essentially boils down to: "we shouldn't ban foxhunting because we cannot han everything that is cruel or distasteful". But what is wrong with starting somewhere? Granted, people should be allowed certain freedoms - but the nature of living in a democratic society is baving to conform to what is good for the majority as well as the individual.

In addition, it surprises me that foxhunting is not classed as "deliberately crue!" but boxing (a sport involving two paid senting adults) is.

Perhaps many people do choose not to become vegans. Maybe the same people do not research thoroughly all the ethical intentions of the companies they purchase products from. This does not mean that they have no right to express an opinion on a matter which emotionally affects them at the time. This is not hypocritical this is human. SHARON OTOO

Sir: Concern about foxhunting smacks not only of hypocrisy but also of almost total ignorance of nature's unpleasant realities and a compulsion to see animals only through the eyes

Egham, Surrey

of Beatrix Potter. Wild animals die alone and usually in fear and pain in the jaws or claws of a predator. If. like the fox, they have no natural predators then untreated disease or injury is the usual natural cause of death with dehydration providing the final

Inconvenient though it may be for the campaign against foxhunting, animal suffering is a much greater evil than animal death. If conducted properly, foxbunting and the other blood sports are capable of delivering quicker and more humane deaths to their quarry than they would otherwise suffer in

the wild. If foxhunting is banned, noone should imagine that the lot of the fox will have been improved. But then, one suspects that that is hardly the point. STEPHEN MULLINER

Haslemere, Surrey

Sir: Foxhunting consists of nothing more wicked than the use, under controlled conditions, of the fox's natural predator to maintain a natural balance. The aspect that seems to cause squeamish town dwellers so much anguish, the fact that once killed the fox is torn to pieces and eaten by the

pack, is in principle no different to what happens around 90 per cent of dinner tables up and down the land every Sunday, at about midday.

Is it possible that the two sins of the hunting, shooting and fishing brigade are: conveying the mistaken impression that they are all "toffs"; and tearing away the comforting veils of abattoir, supermarket and clingfilm and giving town folk an uncomfortable glimpse of what homo sapiens really is - the most ruthlessly successful of all the predatory omnivores.

J A DAVIS Bookham, Surrev

Sir: Is it not the case that the argument over foxhunting has gone far beyond the issue of animal welfare? A passion to win has been ignited; the opposing view must be defeated, no matter what. I suspect that if irrefutable evidence came to light proving that the fox suf-

fered no more than any other wild animal in the natural world, Mike Foster MP and his fans would choose to ignore the evidence. The scent of victory is in their nostrils and lynchmob mentality has taken over

MR & MRS COLLATERAL DAMAGE

OF 32 THE CASBAH, BAGHDAD,

AND THEIR SON, WHOOPS,

CELEBRATE THE MACHO

GLORIOUS LEADER.....

POSTURING OF THEIR

from reason. In such circumstances, rational argument gives way to guerrilla tactics. Millions of pounds are spent by both sides in a struggle for supremacy. The cause does not warrant this. TONY RUSSELL Strutton Audley, Oxfordshire

Test for CID

Sir: "The only test that exists for BSE and CID involves examining the brain tissue from victims" writes Kate Watson-Smyth ("Scientists takes step forward in battle against BSE", 6 November). Not so. A distinguished British virologist with an international reputation for the work he has been doing

since 1970, both here and in the United States, on the "Scrapie agent" first offered the Ministry of Agriculture a urine test for BSE as long ago as 1993 and many times since. His offers have mysteriously always been

PRIESTLEY

At the request of relatives he has carried out his test on 15 humans who were suffering from possible CJD and in all 15 he found the test to be positive. Subsequent post-mortems confirmed that all 15 did have CJD. Had this urine test been carried out on cattle it could have identified the infected animals. thus restricting the cull and avoiding three farmers' suicides, together with the loss to

the UK of an estimated £4bn. Why are we getting excited about a possible blood test which Zurich scientists may eventually claborate when there is a urine test available already? H C GRANT London NW3

Louise Woodward

Sir: If Judge Hiller Zobel reduces the verdict on Louise Woodward to manslaughter (report, 6 November) be will have determined that the jury were wrong to bring in a murder verdict and that it cannot be allowed to stand.

But if the verdict of murder falls it means that Louise is not guilty of the crime she was charged with. If she is not guilty of the crime she was charged with, she should go free.

If the only way of repairing a wrong verdict is to replace it with one for an offence which was not put to the jury, why not find her guilty of jaywalking instead? KEVIN McGRATH Harlow, Essex

Sir: Stephen Jakobi (Letters. November) regrets the "loose or-poose" option chosen by Louise Woodward. But if the ju ror Stephen Colwell is telling the truth, then Louise was not con victed because she chose "loose or-noose", but because the jury culpably denied her that optical

Colwell says (report, 4 No vember) that if other charge had been available "then po tentially manslaughter may have been the verdict "ittip ing a reasonable doubt of mur der, which should have led to acquittal. He says, "There's no way we could ... sav We think she did it, but we're going to let her go'", implying a prejudice in favour of conviction, regardless of the charge.

Whether Louise's option was a proper one or not, the jury never gave it to her. Instead they allowed themselves the most impermissible option of all They tried Louise Wood ward for manslaughter and then convicted her of murder JOHN HEAWOOD

Sir: Referring to Judge Hiller Zobel's "controversial" article in American Heritage magazine David Usborne suggests (4 November) that Zobel believes that the jury system is flawed. In fact his article was an endorsement of the jury system. Zobel wrote. Perhaps the juty, to paraphrase what Churchill once said of democracy, is the worst mechanism for trying cases, except for any alternative". RICHARD GIORDANO Providence, Rhode Island

'A Dance to the Music of Time' part two: 'Anyone here know Widmerpool?'



Yesterday I brought you the first half of a night party and popped back again at first condensed version of A Dance to the Music light, and - my house has gone! of Time. It wasn't meant to be the first half - it was meant to be the whole thing - but as anyone who has ever tried to condense A Dance to the Music of Time will testify (which, I suppose, means just me and Hugh Whitemore) it does tend to go on a bit.

Anyway, on with the second half! Story so far: lots of old friends keep bumping into each other and asking if they know Widmerpool. They generally do, but don't like him. Meanwhile, everyone is getting older.

Early morning. The scene is a bombed street in London. A man in a black tie, holding a bottle of champagne and two glasses, wanders up.

Man: God Gad, Where has my house gone?

Policeman: This your pile of bricks, sir? Man: Yes. I only popped out for an all-

Policeman: Did you take your wife with you, sir, or is she ... in there somewhere? Man: Did I take my wife? I don't know. What does she look like?

Policeman: Well, if she's in there somewhere, I'd hate to say what she looks like. Man: Do you know Ken Widmerpool? Policeman: No. sir. Man: Nor do I. I think we must be in the

wrong play.

Cut to large rambling house. There is a sign outside: "This house was used in the filming of 'A Dance to the Music of Time', £2.50 entry Wednesdays and Fridays." The sign is hastily removed. Nick Jenkins, in demob suit. comes to the gate. His wife comes nunning

up the drive. Nick: Hello, darling. I'm back. Isabel: Helio, darling. What sort of war did you have?

Nick: I didn't like it much. People kept asking me if I knew Widmerpool. And I had the wrong tie on in one scene.

Isabel: Were you court-martialled? Nick: No, but millions of viewers wrote in to complain. What sort of war did you

Isabel: Perfectly bloody. Daylight was rationed, you know. But I've had three children in the past three years. Nick: That's awfully clever considering

I haven't been here in the past three years. Isabel: Oh, medicine can do so much to help these days, darling. A figure steps out of the undergrowth

Oh. look - it's Uncle Giles! Giles: Hello, you two. Nick: Giles! I thought you were dead! Giles: Am I? He consults the script. Oh,

yes, - so I am. He dies.

Cut to a West End art gallery. Everyone is

Woman: Do you know that dreadful man Widmerpool? Pamela: I should do. I am married to

Woman: Oh, my dear, I am so sorry! Pamela: Not half as sorry as I am. Do you know that painting by Poussin called Dance to the Music of Time?

Woman: Poussin? That's French for chicken, isn't it? Can you imagine a believe. British painter called Chicken?

Pamela: Well, we have painters called Constable and Sargent, and nobody thinks

Widmerpool (banging a table with his first): Could we have silence just for a moment? Thank you all for coming ... Nick Jenkins arrives, out of breath Nick: Have I missed anything?

Woman: Hello, Nick. Nick: I am sorry, I don't think .. Woman: It's Jean. We had an affair in the first episode.

Nick: Did we? I've got that episode on video but I haven't had a chance to watch Widmerpool: ... and in conclusion may

I say that I shall shortly be going bonkers and running off with a charismatic young man called Scorp? Sir Magnus: Why?

Widmerpool: It's short for Scorpion, I

Sir Magnus: No - why are you going bunkers and running off with this young

Widmerpool: Well, I'm not sure, but I think it's because Anthony Powell can't think of an ending.

Nick: And doesn't know anything about the Sixties. Enter Bob Duporte, Odo Stevens, Nico-

las Poussin, and everyone who is not there

Poussin: Excusez moi, mais connaissez vous Widmerpool?

حكذا من الاحل

Trade as

11.5

ETHICAL TRADING

21/COMMENT

Her Majesty's official Opposition is - where?



DONALD **MACINTYRE** THE TORIES AND EUROPE

In the House of Commons on Wednesday there were 12 questions asked of Tony Blair by Conservative MPs, five of them by the Leader of the Opposition. Every one was on Europe, and 11 of them on the perceived iniquities of the Social Chapter. This was no doubt regarded by the Tory whips' office as a triumph of the leaden orchestration that now regularly takes place in both the main parties on these occasions. Except that on that very day a clear embarrassment for the Government, perhaps the clearest since the election, had come to light: the decision, despite ministerial promises to the contrary, not to apply the ban on tobacco advertising to Formula One racing.

It seemed, on the face of it, a classic case both of promising what you couldn't deliver, and ducking a hard choice. It directly involved the Prime Minister, who had been personally lobbied by the motor-racing industry. Was it really such a triumph to ensure that not one solitary Opposition MP even tried to make him squirm on the issue?

To make it worse, nothing had happened to justify this sudden obsessive interest in the Social Chapter. Or, to put it more precisely, nothing had happened outside the Conservative Party. The Europhiles in the party who know better, and who regard the Amsterdam summit as having had an unimportant but reasonably positive outcome, have agreed to vote against the Amsterdam Treaty bill in the Commons next week. So the leadership is now seeking to demonstrate, at the expense of serious opposition to the Government, that it is back in charge of its own party. But surrender of the party's have the alleged defects of Amsterdam had pro-Europeans on Amsterdam is tactical and temporary. It was agreed this week by the Positive European Group of MPs, including Ken Clarke, on the grounds that it is better to save their fire for the more important battle: EMU. When that moment comes most of them, and certainly Clarke 17 per cent three years ago. and Michael Heseltine, will vote with the Government rather than their own party.

The pro-Europeans' tactic is understandable. But it doesn't alter the symbolic importance of next week's three-line whip for the Tory leadership, and the large majority of Tory backbenchers who support it. Opposition to the treaty, if it is to be taken seriously, implies that a future Tory government would seek to alter its terms. Which happens to be in line with the long-held attachment of Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, to the idea of seeking to "renegotiate" Britain's membership of the EU in a way that would repatriate some powers from Brussels. In his speech at the Tory conference, Howard explicitly said: "We will not be afraid to look again at the powers exercised by Brussels." What does this mean in practice? Allies of Howard have argued, rather optimistically, that the UK would have the clout to negotiate new terms if there were a change of government. But

some of them have not, in private, shrunk from the implication that it might have to be pursued under threat of withdrawal. If that threat is to mean anything, as Norman Lamont said in a ground-breaking speech two years ago, the threat might, under cer-

tain circumstances, have to be carried out.

Hague himself hasn't fully declared his hand on this. He hasn't himself yet said he would go into the next election demanding renegotiation of Amsterdam under threat of withdrawal. Some would say opposition to the treaty anyway implies that; in any case it is a mark-time treaty (at worst) that preserved intact the objectives of the previous government: border controls and the right of member states to make their own foreign policy. Opposition to it suggests a new depth of hostility to the EU as it has existed since John Major reached his deal at Maastricht.

And here there are two fundamental problems. The first is the sort of target Blair is in relation to Europe, as opposed to what the Tories will vainly try to represent him as being. If you listen to Robin Cook giving evidence to the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, as he did this week, saying that Amsterdam represents an "improvement" on the integrationist designs of Maastricht; or, if you read Gordon Brown's submission to last month's ECOFIN, with its emphasis on labour market flexibility, Europe-wide competitiveness and the need for small and medium-sized businesses to prosper, it becomes harder to depict the British government as selling out to obsolete and integrationist EU corporatism. Indeed his hard-nosed approach to excessive labour market regulation - including reduced working hours - has already irritated the French government. The last time Jacques Chirac met Blair before yesterday was at a lunch in Strasbourg last month. The French President remarked to the company: "Tony est un socialiste moderne. Il est cinq kilomètres à droite de moi." (There are unconfirmed rumours that Blair replied; "Oui Jacques et j'en suis fier" - Yes, and I'm proud of it.) On most EU issues, Blair is closer to mid-Eighties Thatcher than to the Europhiliac caricature his opponents seek to conjure.

The other, related problem is public opinion. Even if you were to grant the Tory leadership their improbable claim that they could win an EMU referendum against a formidable cross party coalition of the biggest figures in British politics, that certainly doesn't apply to EU membership itself. Not only zero impact on public opinion, but MORI's Bob Worcester points out in this week's New Statesman that the trend is quite opposite to what the sceptics want: there is even, amazingly, a swing towards a federal Europe - with 34 per cent in support compared with

Most discussion of Hague's difficulties has concentrated on the split. But this may not he the primary problem, any more than unity is the solution. It may be that by pursuing the wrong policy the party risks disconnecting itself from the electorate. The closest potential parallel in Tory history is surely tariff reform. For much of the first quarter of the century the leadership promoted a policy that was almost universally popular inside the party, and utterly rejected by the electorate. Indeed, after the 1906 election the tariff reformers captured the party as the sceptics have captured today's Tory party. Yet when in 1923 Baldwin offered an unconditional promise of tariff reform, he lost the election. As the historian Robert Blake has written of the early century Tories: "Tariff reform remained an article of faith in the party ... in spite of its obvious unpopularity with the public ... Seldom has a party persisted so long in such an unpromising cause." Sound familiar?



Gimme 5? In-depth Kirsty Wark on 'Newsnight' (left) and the more informal, and increasingly popular, Kirsty Young on Channel 5

Kirsty or Kirsty, you can choose



SUZANNE MOORE THE NEW **DEFINITION** OF NEWS

Do you really want to know what is going on in the world? Can you really be bothered? Isn't there too much news already? The proposed revamping of Channel 4 news brought on, or so it has been said, by the success of Channel 5 news, once again begs the question of what makes good news. There is a move right across the media towards making the news more fun, more sexy, more entertaining, as though there is an implicit understanding that news on its own is just too straight, too dull and too boring to attract those peculiar minorities, women and young

If the news agenda is being shifted towards this new market then the news itself will have to change. Sure things will still happen, but there is a reordering of priorities about what is important. This newspaper is part of that change. Yet such changes do not come easy to news organisations in which the traditional ways of dividing up the news are firmly in place.

Print journalism has become far more "magaziney", more

feature- and commentary-led on the basis that most people get their news from radio and television. The idea is that people have already received the primary information about what is going on, and, instead of needing more repetition of facts, they instead need a way of understanding, of processing all this information.

Increasingly, however, there are worries about the presentation. Channel 4's in-depth coverage, centred on sexy but serious Jon Snow, is to be tarted up. Channel 5 news, with its more informal approach pioneered by Kirsty Young, is seen as a direct challenge to the old way of doing things - big brains behind big desks combined with reports that have been prepared earlier.

Kirsty perches on desks in her natty trouser suits and chais her way through the stories of the day. Pans say it's fresh, critics say that it's lightweight with far too many consumer stories. Anyway, aren't we in danger of replicating the American obsession with anchor men/women when what becomes important is the person reading the news rather than the news itself? Cosy Trevor Macdonald versus edgy Jeremy Paxman. Deeply concerned Michael Buerk versus trendy biker Jon Snow. Shallow Kirsty Young versus in-depth Wark. You choose your news according to their view of who gives it you. This is a superficial way of looking at it: style becomes more important than content and therefore content inevitably suffers. This is the ongoing Americanisation or tabloidisation of all media that produces cheap and tacky infotainment. This is the supposed dumbing down that gets everyone so excited.

Those currently complaining about British children watching cartoons like The Simpsons and

Rugrats have obviously never sat down and watched these programmes, which are actually biting social commentaries, far less dumb than much home-grown product aimed at kids. Questioning what news val-

ues are appropriate for the Nineties seems to me a good move and not one that automatically leads to a less intelligent approach. What appears to be happening is a move away from the assumed dominance of Westminster. Newsnight has a new Friday night format which tries to be more cuddly, mainly by asserting itself - as Paxman sneered - a "politician-free zone". The reverence that some have for the Today programme, which so much of the time consists of a small club of politicians and

shake-up. If people are bored to tears by politicians then partly this is the result of political news management. Spinning, image consultancy, media training has not made politicians more endearing to the public, it has helped make them duller than ever. All spontaneity, honesty and humanity appears airbrushed out of them. We know what they are going to say, so why should we waste our time on those who have been taught how not to answer questions? Why should it be the job of news organisations to make these people seem more interesting than they actually

There is also some groping towards the notion that extraparliamentary politics are important.

The grip of Westminster on the public imagination is less tight for a whole number of reasons. There is a sense of the limited power of elected politicians, as well the knowledge that it is now possible to live in

a political culture that has nothing to do with political parties. The media has been slow to

cotton on to the new movements, from road protesters to sophisticated consumer boycotts, because its machinery is not able to fit these vague groupings into the established categories. The lines between hard news and soft news have fallen away. The divisions between social affairs, home news, features and human interest stories are less easy to The old confidence about

what is significant in the world, which many would describe as arrogance, has ebbed away. The paternalistic attitude that was once sure that the news would be good for us, educate us, even if we had to struggle journalists talking to each through it, has gone. Some itself a consumer story - it is other, is also now due for a would argue that the biggest consumer driven. Someone has losers in all of this have been the foreign and investigative reporters whose work is considered far too expensive. Who cares about what's going on in Algeria when you can have another Spice Girls story? These heroes of the news industry remain sacrosanct. They are intrepid and therefore must never be criticised. Why not? Perhaps all news has to be presented differently.

> It's far too lazy simply to blame the tabloids for all these changes. Tabloids may sell themselves primarily as enter

tainment, and are bought on that basis, but it was their investigations of the Royal Family that in their own way brought the monarchy into crisis. The investigative teams of the broadsheets did not do this, or even try.

The success of Channel 5 news also points to a more localised news media. This, in fact, is the situation in America, where much news is multilocal rather than national - let alone international. Consumer stories, human interest stories, quirky stories, do attract audiences. The big stories lately, whether Diana or Louise Woodward, are undoubtedly human interest stories and no less important for that.

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The change in both style and content of the news is to read or listen to all this damn stuff or there is no point in doing it. The world view of the middle-aged, middle-class male is being challenged by those who do not want to be patronised or told what is really meaningful. We can make our own minds up. In many ways we already have. All that is happening is that those who imagine that they are entrusted to organise the world are now struggling to catch up with the way the world chooses to organise itself. Why is that such bad

Digest the news



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Trade and aid can mix, and it's not all beards and sandals



PAUL VALLELY **ETHICAL** TRADING

I have an interest to declare here but let me come to that in a moment. To most people one of the most unexpected aspects of this week's White Paper on overseas development is its emphasis on "ethical trading". Time was when ethical trading meant African handicrafts on sale at the back of the church hall or undrinkable coffee at Nicaraguan Solidarity stalls (whatever happened to them?). So how has it gone from a hobby for the beard-andsandals brigade to being a big

plank in government policy in less than a decade?

The very idea of ethical trading would not long ago have been regarded in Labour Party circles as an oxymoron. I might have thought so, too, until I went to Ethiopia during the 1984 famine. That brought home to me the limitations of the approach to aid that was then current. Emergency food did the job of keeping people alive. But so many of the development projects that were supposed to prevent future emergencies were based on a paradigm which ended with grandiose modernisation projects, abandoned and overgrown in the African bush.

Over the next decade I reported from 30 Third World countries and was increasingly struck by the extent to which all suffered from the same problems. Two things became clear. First, that if development projects were to work they had to be rooted in the priorities and perceptions of the local people, not those of experts from abroad. Second, that all projects would be fruitless unless some of the underlying structural problems were dealt with in the

international trading system; the West had erected an edifice of tariff and taxes to discourage Third World countries from developing their own industry and instead continuing simply to provide the industrialised world with raw materials. The system that went under the name of free trade was for many

And now for my declaration of interest. When my decade of overseas travelling came to an end I became involved with Traidcraft, a plc which buys and sells Third World products but which pays a fair price to the people who make them. Its sister company, Traidcraft Exchange, of which I now chair the board, runs a business advisory service to provide basic business skills to those producers and gives marketing informa-

not free at all, and certainly not

tion on what will sell in the UK. It was not terribly fashionable when I joined. The pure of heart preferred charitable-giving untainted by the murky marketplace. The politically minded saw it as a kind of Trojan horse for Thatcherism -"You're just a social market man," I was once told by Labour's last development minister, Judith Hart.

But business was vital - and not just because self-sufficiency and work lies at the core of human dignity. As Clare Short's white paper acknowledges, private capital flows have now come to dwarf official flows as a source of money into the Third World. More than that, the man and woman in the high street had ceased to be citizens and become consumers. The challenge was to harness that and ensure that every £1 spent was an economic vote cast in the direction of the poor.

That meant a wider canvas than Traidcraft's mail order system and its 2,000 voluntary reps could afford. Abroad Traidcraft Exchange spawned indigenous partner organisations in South Africa, Tanzania, the Philippines, India, Zambia and Bangladesh. At home it established a partnership with three other alternative trading" groups - Oxfam Trading, Equal Exchange, Twin Trading - to create a new, fairly traded, high-quality coffee named Cafédirect and persuade su-

permarkets that there is a mar-

ket for ethics, just as there was

for environmentally friendly

It has been a marked success. Other fairly traded goods - including tea and chocolate - are now widely available in supermarkets branded with the marque of the Fairtrade Foundation which Traidcraft set up in coalition with Cafod, Christian Aid, New Consumer, Oxfam, the World Development and, perhaps most surprisingly, the Women's Institute. But introducing new brands

cannot be a comprehensive answer. Existing companies had to be influenced towards more ethical business practices. Aid agencies began pressing large manufacturers and retailers to endorse codes of conduct. Christian Aid rated supermarkets in order of Third World friendliness (Tesco came top) and ran exposés of the sweated labour behind Nike shoes and child labourers who make Premier League footballs. Cafod did the same with fashion footwear from Brazil.

From there ethical trading moved up another gear. For the past six years Traidcraft has been pioneering a system called social accounting. Using mech-

nancial auditing it monitors the impact a firm has on its suppliers, customers, staff (and their families), the local community and the environment. The system has been taken up by Allied Dunbar, BT and the Irish government. The Co-op Bank and the Body shop have adopted their own versions. Traidcraft's social accounting specialist has most recently been approached by Shell with whom it is in discussions on how it might report its activities in a more open and transparent way. And Clare Short is pledged to investigate how her own department might be subjected to a social audit.

anisms parallel to those in fi-

Social auditing is, of course, like codes of conduct, a voluntary mechanism. But it is proving such an effective tool of management information that many companies are considering it who do not feel the need to adopt it as a mere PR measure. The challenge now is to spread that further. Globalisation has brought new problems for developing countries. But it has also brought a new lever with which to press for a bet-

ter deal for the world's poor.

All you need to know about everything that matters

Bank shocks City with surprise

interest rate rise

The increase in interest rates announced by the Bank of England yesterday took the financial markets by surprise. And, as Diane Coyle, Economics Editor. discovered, City experts could not agree on how much further the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee would go.

The quarter-point rise in interest rates to 7.25 per cent sent the pound up and the money markets sharply lower yesterday. Many traders had persuaded themselves that the recent stockmarket turbulence would delay the next rate move, and they were therefore caught on the hop by the Monctary Policy Committee's decision.

In the aftermath of the midday announcement the pound jumped by a pfennig to just under DM2.91, while its index climbed by 0.9 to 103.3. The sterling futures market fell sharply, betting on rates being another half point higher by next June.

Many City economists expressed either surprise or disappointment at yesterday's move. "I'm surprised the Bank has chosen to ignore the strength of the pound and the turbulence in financial markets," said Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe.

The publication of the Bank's Quarterly Inflation Report next week was seen as the likeliest explanation for the timing. Following vesterday's move the report will be able to show inflation meeting its target rather than overshooting it.

However, the experts were sharply divided on how much higher rates will need to be raised to meet the 2.5 per cent

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC Markets, predicted at most one more quarter point step in the first quarter of next year. "The markets have overreacted," he said.

On the other hand, Steven Bell, head of research at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "The MPC must have it in mind to do more. The labour market indicators are all flashing red." He said rates could climb to 8 per cent next year.

The Bank's statement indicated that skill shortages in the jobs market and unsustainable growth in GDP had tipped the balance. It admitted growth would slow next year but said the balance of risks was such that the Committee had judged a modest rate rise necessary.

Behind the uncertainty about future rate rises lie diverging assessments of the current strength of the economy. Two leading forecasting groups joined business organisations yesterday in saying that the Bank's

move was unnecessary.

In its latest report the London Business School's Centre for Economic Forecasting said the economy is heading for a "soft landing". But Andrew Sentance, its director, said that although the risk of recession was still "remote", the Bank had made a slowdown in 1998 more likely.

The Bank of England has chosen to take out an insurance policy against potential inflation risks in the pipeline," he said.

The new forecast forsees inflation hitting a peak of 3 per cent in 1999, well within the Government's 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent target range, without any further rate

Separately, Garry Young of the National

Institute of Economic and Social Research agreed that policy was already tight enough for the inflation target to be met. The rise increases the chance of a recession next year", he warned. This warning was echoed by some business groups. Ian Peters, deputy director gen-

eral of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "In our view recent surveys do not provide sufficient evidence for a further rise at this time." "With UK interest rates the highest of

G7 countries, this will further constrain Britain's international competitiveness," he added.

However, mortgage lenders reacted calmly, with most announcing that they would not make any decisions about mortgage rates immediately. The two biggest mutual lenders, the Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley, made a widespread move unlikely by saying they would hold their rates until the end of December and end of January respectively.



Eddie George: Following yesterday's move the Governor will be able to show inflation meeting its target in the Bank's Quarterly Inflation Report next week

Nor did the lenders think the latest rate more increase would get the economy rise would harm the housing market. "As long as base rates do not go a lot higher, there will be no impact. The housing market recovery is solidly based," said Gary

Marsh of the Halifax. Some economists reckon the pace of said: "The Bank has given its credibility a growth is still so rapid that the Bank will eventually have to stamp harder on the brakes. Most pointed to the mounting evidence of skill shortages and pay pressures in the jobs market as the biggest concern.

David Walton at Goldman Sachs said one

alvsts forsee interest rates rising no higher than 8 per cent, this would be the lowest neak during a business cycle for a generation. Outlook, page 23 spending had not yet slowed to a sus-

real boost."

High street fared better in October but car sales suffered slowdown

Retail sales picked up in Uniober, according to figures released yesterday which helped vindicate the Bank's decision to lift rates. But the booming car market slowed down after its strong performance over the summer. Michael Harrison and Diane Cayle examine the latest figures.

The Confederation of British Industry reported that sales volumes reached their strongest level for a year in October after having been held back the previous month by the "Diana factor".

According to the organisation's latest distributive trades survey the level of activity on the high street last month was well above average for the time of year with sales increasing at their quickest rate since November, 1996.

The CBI said the underlying trend suggested that a slowdown in sales growth since midsummer has levelled off. Retailers also became more optimistic about sales prospects for the next few months, with the volume of business

in October surpassing their expectations. Alastair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's survey panel, said: "This survey paints a more promising picture for retailers, as overall sales volumes in October increased at their fastest rate for almost a year."

The balance of retailers reporting an increase rather than a decrease in sales was 38 per cent compared with 26 per cent in September.

All retail sectors apart from footwear and leather reported October sales higher than a year earlier. Sales of both furniture and carpets and clothing rebounded strongly after a dismal September. Off-licences, booksellers and chemists also had a much better month.

"Overall the survey indicates a bounce back in spending in October, but not at a rate that will allow retailers to push up prices," concluded Geoffrey Dicks, an economist at NatWest Markets.

Michael Saunders of Salomon Brothers said the evidence that consumer

tainable pace supported the case for a

base rates rise. Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe said that despite the modets nature of the pick-up the markets were likely to remain nervous about future trends, particularly the threat of a spending boom over the Christmas period.

Christmas shopping lifts consumer spending in November and December and this year many analysts are predicting that High Street sales could be stronger than ever. They said that was particularly because of a boost from the windfall gains made by millions of people from the stockmarket flotations that followed the conversion of several leading building societies into banks earlier this year. Analysts also said that retail sales were being buoyed by increases in incomes.

New car sales figures for October were more muted showing a rise of only 1.3 per cent to 156,706 on the same month last year. The increase compares with record sales in August and September and an overall rise of 6.7 per cent in the new car market in the first 10 months of the year.

"These figures are clear evidence of a slowdown in the car market following the pattern of other retail sectors," said Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturters and

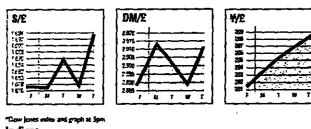
Alan Pulham, director of the Retail Motor Industry Federations, dealers association, said: "It is clear that demand is slowing in line with the general economy but the figures are still a cause for gratification." Imports took 68 per cent of the mar-

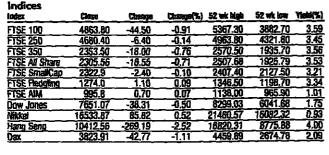
ket while the share of sales accounted for by private motorists as opposed to fleet buyers was 44 per cent.

Ford remained the market leader although its share slipped to 16.7 per cent with Vauxhall taking 14.7 per cent of sales and Rover just unor 10 per cent.

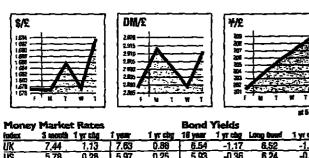
The CBI's survey followed a report earlier in the week showing an increase in business activity in all the service industries. The Chartered -Institute of Purchasing and Supply said there were signs of skill shortages and

STOCK MARKETS





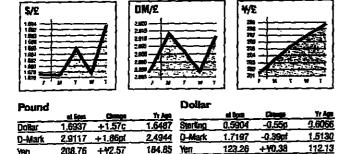
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	(c) (c)	% Chapt	Falls	Pritos (5)	(v) وط2	% (70g
Colt Telecom	561,50	24,50	4.56	RJB Mining	165.00	-15.00	-8.3
Braiton	183,00	7.50	4.27	D <u>anka</u> Bus Sys	544.00		-5.5
Pilkington	136.50	5.50	4.20	Burman Castro	1042.00	-53.00	<u>-5.1</u>
Orange	233.00	5.00		BOC Group	1009	-51	-4,34

CURRENCIES



91.10 \$ index OTHER INDICATORS

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Prent Oil (S)	18.88	0.17	21.25	q <u>r</u>	114.00	3.90	109.7	jag
Gold (5)	312.35	-1 20	379.15		159,30	3.6	153.76	Nov
Silver (\$)	<u> </u>	0.00	4.74	Base F	lates	7.25	6.00	
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104.70

Doubts on Vickers Ernst partner quits after Revenue inquiry bid as Mayflower woos institutions

Mayflower, the automotive engineering group contemplating a £I bn break-up bid for Vickers, the tanks to Rolls Royce cars group, yesterday began wooing support from City institutions. But, as Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark report, doubts are growing about Mayflower's ability to finance an offer on its own.

John Simpson, chief executive of Mayflower, embarked on an intensive round of meetings with the group's main shareholders in search of backing for a bid which would nearly triple its size and leave it with potentially heavy borrowings.

Five institutions hold about 30 per cent of Mayflower's shares and their support will be crucial if a bid is to be launched. Mayflower, advised by BZW, is said to have been sizing Vickers up for two years and to have begun making serious bid preparations in the late summer.

Mayflower's biggest shareholders are Mercury Asset management with just under 10 per cent and Hill Samuel and Flemings Investment Management, each with about 7 per cent. Schroders could have a pivotal role to play as it holds 4 per cent of Mayflower and 20 per cent of Vickers.

Meanwhile, there were indications that Vickers, which is advised by Lazards, could mount a bid defence involving a cash hand-out to shareholders from the £500m it hopes to raise by selling Rolls-Royce, a plan which as announced last week.

Clive Forestier-Walker of the brokers Charterhouse Tilney, cast doubt on whether Mayflower had the firepower to proceed without a partner. "It is a close run thing but I think they would need a bigger brother to do it," he said.

One potential partner is BMW, the German car maker which already owns Rover. City sources said yesterday that it was unlikely Mayflower would have made any move without consulting with BMW since it was a important supplier to Rover, and because BMW was supplying the engine for the new 12-cylinder Rolls Royce.

BMW also has a joint venture with the Rolls-Royce aero engine company which owns the rights to the Rolls Royce name used by Vickers.

Mr Forestier-Walker, who puts the break-up value of Vickers at £920m, also questions whether the Rolls car division was what Mayflower is primarily interested in, suggesting its real targets are the Cosworth engineering and propulsion businesses.

Rolls is reckoned to be worth £500m-£600m. That is more than the stock market capitalisation of Mayflower. Brokers calculate that Mayflower, which is valued at £477m, would need to launch a one-for-one rights issue to fund just the acquisition of the Cosworth and propulsion systems businesses, reckoned to be worth about £390m.

But there would be a heavy goodwill write-off involved in buying Rolls, while the tanks business might be worth as little as £70m once a bidder took into account the costs of closing production facilities as its Challenger tank orders run out. The Vickers defence is like-

ly to centre on the ability of Mayflower to fund a bid. Though Vickers has not ruled out using the Rolls-Royce sale proceeds to mount a huge share buyback, the proceeds are likely to be invested in the group's marine propulsion business and spent on small-scale acquisitions.

The resignation of a financial services office, "has decided that it is in his interests prominent tax partner and those of the firm" to resign brings to a head a longrunning dispute with the Inland Revenue, which

back to its trend. "But that is the minimum

that is needed to keep inflation on target,"

he said. The risk was that rates would need

And Kevin Gardiner of Morgan Stanley

But with even the most pessimistic an-

to be raised even further.

firms. Roger Tropp reports. A leading partner in Ernst &

has made big raids on

the offices of several

Young, one of the Big Six firms of chartered accountants, has resigned following an Inland Revenue investigation into suspected tax fraud.

The firm, which last month announced it was planning a merger with fellow Big Six practice KPMG, said in a statement that Robin John, who worked in the firm's London from the partnership while the inquiries continue. He left last Friday, "with immediate The move follows raids in what has been described as "the most spectacular investi-

gation ever launched" by the Revenue. Five E&Y offices, including its London headquarters, were among 40 premises raided by Revenue officials last month. Mr John's home and the offices of other professional advisers are understood to be among the others.

The Revenue last night refused to comment on the investigation. But, according to the latest issue of Accountancy Age magazine, it is known that the case dates back to 1993, when officials attempted to block a series of avoidance schemes operated by UK companies. The schemes involved selling subsidiaries with large tax liabilities to trusts based in offshore tax havens, such as

Although the Revenue lost a lengthy legal battle with the companies in what E&Y calls "a small number of money-purchase' schemes", the law was changed in the 1994 Budget and documents were passed to the Revenue's special investigations unit. It is believed that it has examined whether purchasers involved involved in the schemes and their advisers

tried to cheat the Revenue. E&Y has been conducting its own investigation and, al-

though this is not yet completed, it is understood it is not expecting any further departures. The firm added that it is continuing to give its full co-operation to the investigation.

The development comes as a report from the National Audit Office published yesterday indicates a growing tendency for tax authorities in different countries to share information. In particular, note tax practitioners, there is an increasing readiness on the part of authorities to alert their colleagues in other countries rather than wait to be asked specific questions.

One said: "In a sense this kills the idea - if it ever really existed - that one can avoid tax by hiding money or assets

Fresh funds take value of MAM portfolios over £100bn

Mercury Asset Management said yesterday it had attracted £3.8bn of new investment funds during the six months to September, taking the value of all the portfolios it manages to over £100bn for the first time.

Hugh Stevenson, chairman, dismissed recent coverage of the poor performance of some of MAM's funds, saying it was wrong to extrapolate their performance to the rest of the group. He said Mercury's UK Equity fund, which has languished at the bottom of performance league tables in recent months, had been reorganised during the summer and anyway represented only a small proportion of MAM's total managed funds, which

reached £104.4bn. He said that the performance of Mercury's pooled funds should be seen in the context of their five or 10-year records, which showed them

among the best funds. During the first half-year, MAM's profit before tax rose from £81.8m to £88.4m. Underlying profits growth was faster,

at 26 per cent, because it excluded the unusually high contribution from lumpy private equity investment disposals which distorted last year's reported result.

Earnings per share rose 3p to 33.9p, from which a dividend of 12.5p, a 25 per cent increase, was paid. Mr Stevenson said the increase was in part a rebalancing of MAM's payout, which has tended to be heavily second-half weighted.

About half MAM's new business came from overseas clients. The group is concentrating on fast-growing asset management markets such as Japan, where the pension fund business has recently been liberalised, and Germany, where funds under management increased by 45 per cent.

MAM's shares, which recently slipped out of the FTSE 100 index of leading companies, closed 20p lower at 1330p. After years of steady growth, the shares have moved sideways throughout much of 1997.

Tom Stevensor Outlook, page 23

BASE RATE

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23/BUSINESS

Bank's stitch in time should save nine On the stitch in time saves nine principle.

the Bank of England was absolutely right to put up short-term interest rates by a quarter point yesterday to 7.25 per cent. A number of small increases in interest rates now should dampen the economy and head off the need for larger ones later.

All these decisions are in the end largely a matter of judgement and no doubt there were some on the Bank's monetary Policy Committee who opposed this move. We'll have to wait six weeks to publication of the minutes to find out just how much opposition there was and where it came from.

Even so the case for raising rates now, though not overwhelming, is certainly compelling. The economy continues to grow at a fair old lick, and while inflation seems to be in abeyance right now, it won't be long at this rate before it resurfaces. In some areas of the economy, notably house prices in the South-east and wages in high skill jobs like IT, it is already racing away. What is more, the strong pound and some deflation in producer prices may be helping to disguise a far more alarming inflationary picture in the economy than the one we are seeing. Those who believe otherwise, including the former chancellor Kenneth Clarke and the British Chambers of Commerce, are just kidding themselves.

Indeed, the only real surprise about yesterday's decision is that it appears to have been so unexpected in the City. Plainly this column, which has been warning of the need for another rise in interest rates, is not as widely read as it should be. True, we don't know yet in any detail what mechanisms and guidelines the MPC uses in coming to its interest rate decisions, so there is bound to be some confusion. There should be some illumination on that front in next Wednesday's inflation report.

But we do know what the inflation target is and you only have to look at the last inflation figures to know we are above it, albeit within the one percentage point band either way the Government has given the Bank as leeway. Furthermore, those who believed that the recent fall in the stock market might persuade the MPC to alter its judgement because of the risks of causing another precipitous sell-off can't have been reading the literature.

The MPC only has discretion to stray from the inflation target if there is a serious shock to the economy. Scary though the events of the past two weeks have been, a 9 per cent fall in a market which had already gone up nearly 30 per cent on the year, can hardly be described as that.

Nor should recent statements by either the Chancellor or the Governor about the need to maintain a parallel track and monetary policy with single currency countries, have been read as an indication that short term interest rates would be moved rapidly into line with these countries. Rather the reverse. What the Governor and the Chancellor were talking about was the common European objective and purpose of low inflation growth. Because we are at a different stage of the business cycle, that objective for the time being re-

quires a quite different monetary policy. In other words, yesterday's decision,

also entirely predictable. A quarter point doesn't in any case make a huge amount of difference either way. But it does send out an important signal - that the Bank is serious about keeping the lid on inflation.

Mam needs to keep its nerve

When Carol Galley, chief executive of Mercury Asset Management, walks in to quiz a nervous chief executive about his company's performance, she wants explanations not excuses. Shareholders in MAM who have sought guidance on the underperformance of some of the fund manager's portfolios ought to be in the same privileged position, but they have been less fortunate.

To a point, MAM is right to ignore all the noise. No one with any sense gives a fig about poor performance in a fund over three months or even a year. What matters is the long haul, and if you go back five or 10 years, MAM is still right up there with the best of them. It would also be wrong A bleak picture to extrapolate from the performance of one £3bn UK-focused fund the likely track record of a global investment company with more than £100bn of funds tied up in all asset classes in many different countries.

That said, shareholders might expect a clearer explanation of what went wrong and why in MAM's UK pooled pension fund. MAM has grown fat on the billions that pension funds have pushed its way as is that he will take the axe to the business

unpalatable though it might have been, was a direct consequence of its outperformance of the market and its peers. It can't expect mandates to keep arriving if it remains at the bottom of the class.

For the time being, new business continues to flood into the group but that is in part a reflection of the conservatism of trustees - no one got fired for appointing MAM - and the inevitable time-lag between a fund manager losing its touch and losing its clients. The worst thing it could do now, however, would be to also lose its nerve. Having miscalculated the surge in financial stocks and counted on a recovery in a handful of bombed-out stocks that failed to materialise, it has responded by reining in individual managers' powers and moving towards stock selection by committee.

At a time when active fund managers face an increasing threat from computers that simply track the indices, the highest risk strategy would paradoxically be to take fewer risks. MAM should stick to its stock picking and turn a deaf ear to the Schadenfreude.

at Kodak

Next Tuesday the chief executive of Kodak, George Fisher, will present Wall Street with a snapshot of where the company is and a time-delayed frame of where he plans to take it. For the group's 94,000 workers, the picture looks bleak. The word

so violently that when he is finished, Kodak will have become, if not a virtual corporation, then certainly a pale image of its former self.

As many as 14,000 job cuts are being spoken of along with a savage streamlining of production operations, the relocation of manufacturing facilities to low-cost countries and an exit from the business of making photographic paper, one of the main planks on which the Kodak brand has been built. This is as massive a corporate restructuring as they come.

It is clear something needs to be done. The company being overtaken and flattened by the Japanese, notwithstanding the company's famous brand name. Its share price has fallen by a third this year alone, its costs are 25 per cent higher than rivals such as Fuji, and its investment in the technology of tomorrow, the digital camera, has so far proved an expensive failure.

But for all that Kodak's solution sits oddly with the mood in the rest of corporate America, where there has been a fierce backlash against slash and burn labour policies and the ferocious downsizing that became the hallmark of the early 1990s. Job reduction and compression aside, the main thrust of the company's revival strategy looks like being big price cuts in its core retail film business. which might allow it to match the competition from Japan but threatens to leave a \$500m hole in operating profits. It is not obvious that such tactics will succeed in reviving the company.

Kodak could axe 14,000 in 'draconian' restructure

OUTLOOK

ON INTEREST RATES.

PERFORMANCE OF

MAM'S PORTFOLIOS

RESTRUCTURING

AND KODAK'S

PLANS FOR

Kodak has one of the world's most powerful focus has become fuzzy. Now Wall Street is hoping that next week George Fisher, the company's chief executive, will offer a solution by cutting thousands of jobs. David Usbome in New York reports.

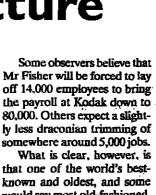
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With its stock struggling and its revenue under attack from competitors such as Fuji of Japan. Kodak is expected to announce dramatic steps next week to regain momentum - including plans to slash up to 14,000 jobs from a bloated

payroll. Anticipation is rising on Wall Street that an analysts meeting that has been called by Mr Fisher, for next Tuesday will mark the moment the company bites a series of painful

In addition to pruning workforce numbers. Kodak could announce several other initiatives including a broad pricecutting campaign for its core retail film business, and a streamlining of manufacturing operations.

In a brief statement yesterday, the photographic and imaging giant said only: "We will take strong action to reduce our cost structure and strong action to accelerate our growth strategy."

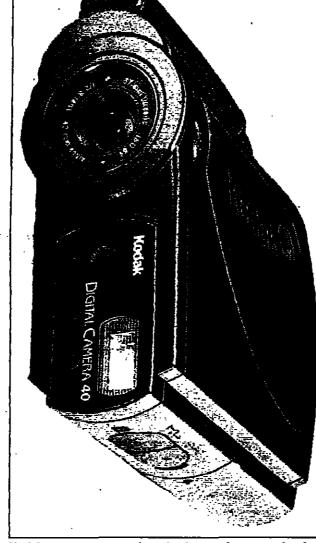


known and oldest, and some would say most old-fashioned. companies is about to undergo considerable trauma. In a time when the rest of the US economy is flourishing, pink slips are about to flutter at Kodak like flakes in a snowstorm. "It's going to have to be a

rather large restructuring in order to have sufficient impact and give them the flexibility to compete with firms like Fuji." said Robert Curran, an analyst at Merrill Lynch yesterday. There has been disappoint-

ment among investors, that Mr Fisher, who took over at Kodak after leaving Motorola, did not act earlier to modernise a still somewhat traditional, vertically integrated employee structure at the company. "It is still a very paternalistic organisation and it was supposed to change under Fisher," remarked Alex Henderson of Prudential Securities.

That something has to be done is self-evident. At about \$63 per share, Kodak stock is down by roughly one-third this year. Revenue from film sales is being increasingly dented by cut-price competition from Fuji of Japan. In the meantime, the company has been investing about \$500m in product development. Its digital business, which had been the great hope



Kodak may announce a broad price-cutting campaign for its core retail film business

of Fisher, has so failed properly to take off and is so far losing the firm roughly \$200m a year. Investors above all expect

Fisher to cut costs wherever he can. Costs are running at about 27 per cent of sales at Kodak. That compares hopelessly unfavourably with a 20 per cent figure at Fuji.

to lower prices by 10 per cent

Action that Mr Fisher may announce, aside from job cuts, could be the relocation of disposable camera manufacturing from the current US plants to countries with lower costs like

Some analysts also expect Kodak to stop making photographic paper. That would mean closing its pulp mill in New York state and contracting out paper-making to outside

Boots plans to boost market share with 'health' strategy

First there was Boots the Chemist, then Boots Opticians, and soon there could be Boots the Dentist. In the battle for market share. Boots is planning to offer its customers more than just products - it wants to sell them expert advice on healthy living, writes Sameena Ahmad.

day that it was planning to roll out dental services to customers in a programme designed to woo customers from the supermarkets. The company, which also reported interim profits up 6 per cent to £253m, said that it planned to roll out its current five concept chemist stores over the next three years.

The stores offer an expanded range of services such as counters advising customers on skin care, oral hygiene and hair colouring. Steve Russell, and DIY retailer, said yester- calls the programme "positive gione, the company is already

staffing", said Boots would build on its experience in offering pharmacy and optical consultation: "There is a massive interest in well-being and healthy-living. We can use our staff in an interface with customers providing advice in a way that supermarkets can't do," said Steve Russell, joint managing director.

However giving customers advice on tooth care could be controversial. While Boots stressed it had no plans to replace dentists and said it could Boots, the chemist, car parts joint managing director who train existing staff in oral hy-

employing one registered dentist, though not practising, to advise customers in a pilot store in Bexley Heath.

A spokesman for the General Dental Council, which registers dentists, said he would be concerned if Boots was trying to offer advice that should come from qualified dentists.

"There is a gray area here. Legally only certain companies can employ dentists to practice dentistry and that includes advice. We would be concerned to clarify the situation with

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3D Wavetable Sound

Mr Fisher is not expected to give final details on pricereduction tactics at next week's meeting, because of negotiations that will have to be entered into with retailers. If, however, Kodak attempts

on its consumer film products. it could cut into operating profits by as much as \$500m a year.

*Formula One float back on track

Bernie Ecclestone's hopes of floating Formula One Holdings, his motor racing promotional empire, have been boosted by a breakthrough in the row over television rights with leading Grand Prix teams. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, examines the remaining obstacles on the road to a £1.5bn share bonanza.

Sources close to the top teams said Mr Ecclestone, who has more control over the sport than anyone else, had almost

concluded a deal over the share of television revenues. It means the flotation is finally likely to emerge from the starting grid, though not until next year. Three teams, Williams,

McLaren and Tyrrell, had refused to sign the Concorde Agreement, which divided up revenues from the televising of Grand Prix races between the constructors. The uncertainty had blighted the flotation, originally planned to coincide with the British Grand Prix in July, and gave the teams a valuable bargaining tool in negotiations.

It emerged yesterday that Tyrrell have recently signed up to Concorde, while the two much bigger teams, Williams and McLaren, are now "80 per cent" of the way to an agreement, af-

ter Mr Ecclestone offered significant concessions. Previously sources said they had been only half-way towards a deal with Mr Ecclestone, whose company was given control over the lucrative rights by the sport's governing body, the FIA.

The Arrows team is also understood to have settled its dispute over Concorde. Arrows, which parted company with former world champion Damon Hill at the end of the season, was also thought to be attempting to contest the agreement, despite having previously signed.

Details of the division of revenues have always been a closely guarded secret in motor racing. Mr Ecclestone last year pulled off a deal thought to be worth £70m with ITV, giving the

network exclusive rights over racing coverage. It is projections of earnings from interactive digital TV which have fuelled the ambitious valuation suggestion by Salomon Brothers, Mr Ecclestone's adviser. Another barrier to the float

was also removed this week, when the Government said it would not force teams to ditch tobacco advertising. Top teams can net more than £20m from individual cigarette sponsors. The biggest obstacle to the

float is now an investigation by the European Commission into whether Mr Ecclestone can claim ownership of television rights. The Commission is questioning whether contracts signed by broadcasters and teams breached competition rules.



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Boots a safe bet in the turmoil

In these days of bouncing stock markets, Boots, the retail giant, looks an ever safe bet. Yesterday's healthy half-year results. which reported underlying profits 6 per cent ahead to £253m and sales 13 per cent stronger at £2.3bn, show Boots is acting fast to expand and differentiate its already strong Boots the Chemist (BTC) brand and keep competition from supermarkets at bay.

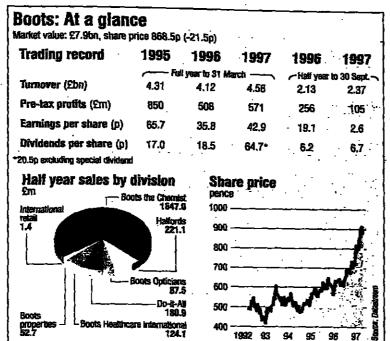
Boots' advantage over the likes of Tesco is that its focus on healthcare and beauty is a perfect forum for brand building. Tins of beans come in limited varieties. Shampoos, bathfoam and lipsticks offer much more scope for the creative marketing manager. Boots' own-brands, such as No.7 skincare, are selling well.

With its own manufacturing, Boots can develop innovative product lines fast. Happily BTC is also in one of the fastest growing retail markets - health and beauty products. Demand here drove up BTC sales 4.8 per cent like- 20 times on £560m profits for the full for-like and profits by 10 per cent, devear now looks full. Hold for now, spite poor summer weather and the Diana effect which cost £9m in lost

Anyone can sell a vitamin or a Kwik Save slow toothpaste and Boots with its grounding in pharmacy is exploring ways to offer consultation on top. Concept stores offering customers advice on tooth and skin care should be rolled out over Whoever takes over from Graham and buying for longer.

shop. The high street stores, currently hard to justify its existence. 13(8) in number could be expanded by 40 new shops a year with 21 larger edge of town stones expected by the year-end. Though early days, the Advantage Card, launched September 1st at a cost of £9m. looks like it will be a winner with applications already exceeding 4 million, 4 per cent while the industry as a making the 8 million card, 12 month target look beatable. Of the other retail businesses, Do-It-All is recovering and in profit of this stronger first half, paving ther 6 per cent decline. the way for an eventual self-off and profits at Halfords, the car parts retailer, advice from Andersen Consulting, surged 40 per cent.

With risk-shy investors piling into defensive stocks, the group's rating of the Tesco and Asda ones its customers



to arrest decline

the next three years. It sounds like a Bowler next summer faces an enorgreat way to keep people in the shops mous task. Kwik Save, squeezed between the supermarket majors on the Lord Blyth, chief executive, spies 'one hand and the continental displenty of gaps in which to plug a BTC counters on the other, is struggling

Pre-tax profits of £73.7m for the vear to August were well down on the £90.3m achieved last year and look likely to continue to fall, with shoppers deserting the chain in droves. Like-for-like sales during the year fell whole reported a 5 per cent rise. In the eight weeks since the end of the financial year there has been a fur-

Kwik Save has spent a fortune on which seems to have concluded that Kwik Save's shops should be more like

are flocking to. It is hard to see how that strategy can work, however, when the only reason for Kwik Save being there at all is that it offers some-

thing the others do not. Save only for cheap commodities.

how successful Kwik Save proves to restaurants. be in using a roll-out of its own cast 4 per cent decline this year, exhighly sensitive to small movements expansion. in the return on turnover. Squeezing another 0.8 per cent of gross margin after last year's 1.1 per cent rise

pending on which view you take on might need a rights issue next year.

margins. Despite a net yield of over 6 per cent, the shares, at less than half the level they reached only two years ago, remain unattractive

Yates Bros makes rapid progress

Yates Brothers Wine Lodges grewout of a 19th-century wine shipper based in Manchester but joined the stock market only three years ago and embarked on a period of rapid expansion. Under the direction of Peter Dickson, a great great grandson of the founder, Yates will increase its trading outlets by an astonishing 40 per cent in the current financial year, and plans to double again over the next four years to 200 sites in all the big towns in the

New locations can cost up to £2m to acquire and equip, but they take an average of £20,000 a week, putting them at the very top end of the licensed premises business and move quickly

Rapid growth costs money, however. Capital expenditure doubled to almost £20m in the first half and borrowings The company's main challenge is rose to £29m. Yates yesterday hired deceptively simple - to persuade its John Barnes the managing director of existing customer base to spend more. the Harry Ramsden fish and chip chain The New Generation stores, cur- as a non-executive director for his rently being rolled out, though at expertise with retail brands and tapped rather a snail's pace, now focus more another source of capital when it on fresh produce, but most shoppers teamed up with Quintain Estates, a seem likely to continue to use Kwik South of England property company, to create an investment company Key to this year's results will be specialising in licensed premises and

Initially the joint venture will invest brand labels to increase its gross £20m in a portfolio of 15 of Yates' margin. With sales, even after a fore- premises that will be leased back on 25year terms, and Yates will raise a net pected to be around £3bn, profits are £16m on the deal to fund further

Profits have risen steadily over the last five years including a 27 per cent increase to £5.1m before exceptionals could result in pre-tax profits this time in the six months to 28 September. But of £66m, analysts believe, but growth Williams de Broe is still forecasting of half as much would peg profits back profits of £12m and earnings of 15.3p for the full year. The shares, un-At 325.5p, up 2p yesterday, Kwik changed at 378.5p, are on 25 times Save's shares stand on a prospective prospective earnings. High enough price/earnings ratio of 13 or 15, de- for a family-controlled company which

Shell considers big drive into Russia

Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil group, could be about to launch its biggest drive yet into the Russian oil business, according to one of the country's new agencies.

As Chris Godsmark, **Business Correspondent,** reports, the speculation came as the company disappointed analysts with a small increase in profits.

Reports yesterday said Shell was planning to make a joint bid with Gazprom, the oil and gas group, for Rosneft, one of Russia's biggest oil businesses. The Russian government intends to privatise Rosneft next year.

Shell described the reports as "speculation" yesterday and declined to comment further. The oil giant has already made more limited in-roads into Russia, though a partnership in an offshore venture with Marathon. Mitsubishi and Mitsui. The company has also been given approval to build several petrol station sites in St Petersburg, with the first garage due to open this year.

The speculation follows indications by British Petroleum earlier this week of renewed interest in Russia after a disappointing experience in the early 1990s. BP has recently expanded a chain of petrol stations in Moscow and said it was debating whether to step up its investment programme into the upstream oil exploration business. John Browne, chief executive, said BP was "talking to lots of people" in Russia and was encouraged by the improving political climate for

Shares in Shell Transport, the UK-quoted part of the group, fell 8p yesterday to 412.5p, after the company revenled a modest 5 per cent rise in earnings in the third quarter, excluding special items, to £1.17bn. Shell said the results was its second record thirdquarter performance in a row, but analysts pointed to continuing uncertainty over the future

foreign investors.

of the group's £7bu cash pile. One analyst, John Toalster from Société Générale, said: "There is a lot of hope value and nothing is materialising." Shell has previously said a buyback was unlikely in the short term because of unfavourable tax treatment in the Netherlands.

Shell has raised expectations with recent deals, including buy-ing out its Italian joint venture partner, Montedison, in the Montell plastics making business.

The results were boosted by continuing cost cutting in Shell's exploration and production business, which partly offset the recent drop in oil prices. Thirdquarter earnings from exploration and production fell 1 per cent, to £595m. Shell yesterday said it was pleased by the efficiency gains, which a spokesman described as "self help". apparently borrowing a phrase which has become BP's mantra.

Profits margins from oil refining and marketing, including petrol retailing, improved significantly. Refining and market ing earnings between July and September were £451m, up 7 per cent on the previous year.

Royal SunAlliance profits slip

Royal SunAlliance yesterday blamed what it called "the London bus syndrome" for a leap in claims in the third quarter of this year which caused its profits to slip.

The composite insurer said it had been hit by an unusually high number of claims, which cost £93m, 79 per cent more than in the third quarter of 1996. This helped to push down profits over the nine months by £3m to £738m.

A company spokesman said: We normally expect there to be a steady flow of reasonably large claims, such as fires and floods. But this year we have had an extraordinarily good first six months. Like the Lon-

don buses all coming at once, said Budget changes to advanwe had all the claims between July and September."

Royal SunAlliance said the volcano eruption in Montserrat and large claims on UK property had boosted the claims figure. The company said it had also been hit by the strong pound because half of its general insurance and a third of its life insurance was sold abroad. Investors drove down Royal

Sun Alliance shares by 19.5p to 580.5p. The drop of 2.5 per cent compared with a 1 per cent slide in the FTSE 100 index.

Some analysts said they were disappointed the insurer had as yet failed to deliver on a promised share buy-back. It

ced corporation tax had to be digested first.

One analyst said: "The market is dissatisfied with the attitude and is unsure whether the company may be procrastinating. The proposal was made before the Budget but if the, commitment remains to grant ahead with the buy-back, the company should go on."

Other observers said performance in the US had been lacklustre. While last year's merger between Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance had produced savings of £110m in line with expectations, the company needed a new focus, they added.

- Andrew Verity

Control of the contro

Barclays Base Rate Change

Barclays Bank PLC

announces that with effect from

6th November 1997,

its Base Rate has increased

from 7.00% to 7.25%



BARCLAYS BANK PLC REGISTERED OFFICE: 34 LOMBARD STREET, EC3P 3AH. REGISTERED NUMBER 1026167.

Etam continues

to £54m.

Etam, the troubled womenswear retailer, said yesterday it was continuing to hold talks with potential bidders for the comparry, but declined to divulge the

actively considered and a further announcement will be communicated to shareholders as soon as possible," Nick Hollingworth, Etam's managing director, said yesterday. News that the company was in bid talks was first announced

The most likely bidders, according to market sources, include House of Fraser, New look and a US footwear retailer.

Sales were adversely af-

eight weeks had been 4.4 per Hollingworth said.

Seven recently refurbished "new format" stores, including four entirely new shops which have been promoted using the actress Patsy Kensit, are performing above budget. The three existing stores converted to the new format are trading "considerably above budget" and independent market research shows the new shopfit and the improved range of merchandise are bringing lapsed customers back to Etam, according to yesterday's state-

The shares fell a further 1.5p to 118p, a far cry from the peak of 280p three years ago.

— Clifford German

Ofwat reveals extent of

Some 32 per cent of households in England and Wales were subject to hosepipe bans last year, according to figures released yesterday by Ofwat, the water watchdog. Ofwat said

the numbers of bans had fallen in the year to the end of March

compared with the previous year. The report praised the in-

dustry for improving service standards, but warned the per-

formance of some companies was not good enough. The report

showed 92 per cent of enquiries about bills were answered

within five working days, while the number of written com-

plaints fell by 15,000 to 157,000. Poor performance was high-lighted at Anglian Water, North West, South West and Wessex.

BSkyB and Cable & Wireless Communications yesterday con-

firmed they had signed a deal to co-operate on the launch

of digital satellite and cable television. As part of the two to

three-year agreement, which had been trailed for many

months, CWC is to take BSkyB's pay-per-view service, Sky

Box Office, on analogue and digital platforms. Customers

will be able to pay to view movies, sporting and music events.

The pact threatens to undermine an alliance between four

other cable companies to develop a pay-per-view service.

German manufacturing

which were asked to provide plans for improvement.

BSkyB deal confirmed

hosepipe ban

German manufacturing orders fell a seasonally adjusted 1.8 per cent in September from August and were up an unadjusted 10.9 per cent from a year earlier, the Economics Ministry said. The consensus forecast had been for a rise of 0.6 per cent. The ministry said it expects an upward correction in the September data. The fact holidays were later this year distorted the figures for September and August. Domestic orders in Germany were down 2.0 per cent in September from August and up 4.2 per cent from a year earlier, while foreign orders shed 1.3 per cent on the month, but rose 22.3 per cent on the year.

Boost for Northern Leisure

Shares in the fast-expanding Northern Leisure chain of licensed dance halls rose 11p to a peak of 325.5p yesterday after Nick Oppenheim, vice chairman, delivered an up-beat statement at the annual meeting. In the nine weeks since 1 September like-for-like sales have increased 3.8 per cent and total sales are 91.3 per cent ahead, thanks to new outlets. Three more sites have been acquired in the last two months at a cost of £7.3m, bringing the number of outlets to 44.

Capita wins Lambeth deal

Capita, the management consultants and information technology group, has won a contract worth £48m over seven years to supply services to the London Borough of Lambeth. Capita will develop Lambeth's office into a London Business Centre which hopes to attract additional business to the borough.

Care First buys SurgiChem

Care First Group, the nursing home provider, has acquired SurgiChem, a manufacturer of monitored dosage systems, for £1.3m plus a performance payment of up to £100,000. SurgiChem made a profit of about £220,000 in the year to

Daiwa executives arrested in Tokyo

The Japanese "gangster pay-off" scandal escalated yesterday as Hiromitsu Sogame, former vice-president of Tokyo-based brokerage Daiwa Securities, was arrested along with three other Daiwa senior officials.

Senior executives at all of Japan's "Big Four" brokerages - Daiwa, Nomura, Nikko and Yamaichi - have now been arrested in connection with alleged illegal payments to Japanese racketeers, known as sokaiya. Besides the broking houses, several other leading financial institutions, including Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, have been caught up in the scandal.

"This is threatening to destroy the international credibility of the entire Japanese economy," said Kanezo Muraoka, chief cabinet secretary, in an address to Japanese business leaders yesterday.

Until recently, the scandal was thought to be confined to the financial community. But recent revelations that Mitsubishi, the car maker, and Toshiba, the giant electronics company, had made payments to alleged racketeers showed that the influence of the sakaiya was more

widespread than originally

thought. Sokaiya are extortionists who extract money from companies in return for not disrupting shareholders' meetings. Payments to sokaiya have been illegal in Japan since 1983.

The Japanese media have alleged that several top Japanese firms have channelled money to extortionists via payments for beach houses rented from a sokaiya-associated firm. Hitachi, the electronics group, last week admitted that it had made payments of this type.

The scandal has begun to impact upon the financial health of leading Japanese compa-nies. Moody's Investor Service, the credit rating agency, warned yesterday that Yamaichi Securities' bond ratings could be downgraded. Moody's is con-

ducting a review of Yamaichi. "The review will consider the long-term implications of the illegal payments scandal involving Yamaichi., and the diminished likelihood of government support for the firm in the case of financial distress", Moody's added.

Lea Paterson

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Boots (I)*	2.4bn (2.1bn)	253(m (239m)	19.3p (17.3p)	6.7p (6.2p)
Clysic Blowers (F)†	65.5m (45.1m)	1.13m (2.33m)	5.79p (19.64p)	8p (8p)
Extetes & Agency (F)	- (-)	1.54m (1.05m)	17.9p (15.32p)	18.5p (15p)
Plans (1)	69.1m (94.5m)	-9.55m (-5.78m)	-11.87p (-8 93p) 0.5p (0.5p)
Greycout (1)	13.7m (17.6m)	5.6m (3.8m)	4.6p (3.1p)	oli (-)
Kulk Save (F):	3.2bn (3.51bn)	73.7m (2.8m)	27.75p (37.68p)	20p (20p)
MAM (I)	190m (165m)	88.4m (B1.8m)	33.9p (30.9p)	12.5p (10p)
Megalometila (i)	5.7m (1.9m)	1.17m (0.87m)	1.22p (1.14p)	예 (-)
MINT Competing (F)	24.66m (16.9m)	5.55m (4.53m)	29.8p (24,8p)	11.3p (8.7p
Hoyal & Sun (Smiths)	- (-)	832m (899m)	35.7p (40.9p)	nii (-)
Value Bros Wine (I)	44.1m (34.4m)	5.1m (4.28m)	8.4p (5.4p)	1.15p (0.98

Base Rate

Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited announces that its base rate has changed from 7% to 7.25% p.a. with effect from close of business on 6th November, 1997.

Grindlays

PO Box 130 London SW1Y 4LF Tel: 0171 451 3500

talks with bidders

identity of any of the suitors. "These proposals are being

last month.

Nine West. Meanwhile, the company yesterday reported a loss of £7.8m for the half-year to 9 August, one third larger than in the equivalent period last year. Turnover was down 6 per cent, rent and rates edged higher and staff costs went up nearly 5 per cent. Gearing and interest charges rose, although capital expenditure was cut from £4.5m to £2.8m and the number of shops was pruned from

fected by the cool, wet weather in June, and extra mark-downs on prices were needed to clear unsold stock. In the first four weeks of the second-half, sales of autumn stock were depressed by unseasonally good weather and the impact of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Trade had since improved and like-for-like sales in the past cent ahead of last year, Mr

Parity pushes into US market

Parity, one of the UK's leading providers of information technology services, is making its first push into the US market by buying two complementary

American companies. The London-based company will pay £21.6m to buy Tel-Tech and Personal Solutions. two family-owned businesses located in New York. A further £3m will be paid depending on the businesses performance in the next two years.

Jonathan Gross, president of TelTech, will stay at the helm of his company while selling his majority stake. Parity said yesterday that the

acquisitions would give it the opportunity to grow in the US

organically. Further local acquisitious were also a possibility. Philip Swinstead, Parity's chairman, said: "We have been carefully preparing for this move and TelTech provides the

stable, long-established base

that we have been seeking." He added that Parity and TelTech had the same approach to their businesses, combining permanent employees with freelance or temporary staff. Parity has 1,000 full-time staff and 2,500 part-time employees. TelTech

has a workforce of 460. Parity will raise £26.9m on the stock market to pay for the deal. Shares rose to 595p, up 17.5p on the day.

مكذا من الاجل

25/SHARES

Norwich Union lifted by takeover talk once again MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Norwich Union, the insurance talk. Barclays and Lloyds TSB group which has suffered near remain the market's favourite continuous blasts of takeover speculation since arriving on the stock market in the summer, again stole the limelight, gaining 8.5p to 359p.

in busy trading the shares were at one time riding at 361.5p with a stream of small deals going through.

markable display since flotation when shares were offered to members at 265p and institutions at 290p. Members also collected free shares.

Long before Norwich made allocations were cut back. ils market début there was a strong conviction its days of independence were numbered. Indeed, towards the end of the even before the surprise in-

The Barclays image, suffering from the BZW sale fi- 150p, below the then market asco, would benefit from a positive move like an insurance strike and Lloyds has already er was not disclosed but many made clear it still nurses in-

surance ambitions. But the bid story does not The insurer has put on a reget universal support. There is a school of thought that the coal imports and generators share display is due to institutions taking advantage of selling by small shareholders. and 4,000 job losses. The Gov-At the time of the issue their

> Norwich shrugged off a there terest rate increase. Footsie 15p off at 165p. ended 44.5 points down at 4,863.8; at one time it was off

RJB Mining bad another distressing time, hit by a myshigher at 136.5p.

tery 8 million share sale. An institution sold the shares at price, to another institution. The identity of the buyer and sellsuspect Mercury Asset Management topped up its stake

RJB has been hit by cheap switching from coal to gas. It has warned of pit closures ernment has ruled out offering a helping hand.

with Abbey Life unloading.

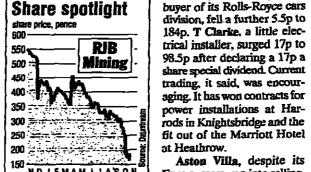
Last month Dresdner downbeat session which was Kleinwort Benson said sell threatening to be a non event and warned the shares may be worth only 100p; they ended

Pilkington was again the heaviest traded share with a 67.1. Supporting shares were 31.7 million volume recorded. The price recovered some of

Wednesday's fall, ending 5.5p vance. Faber Prest, a special-

Rank, up 3p to 346p, continued its buy back programme, picking up 1.8 million shares at 345p. Analysts toured some of its British leisure operations this week.

Colt Telecom remained in form following Wednesday's results. It added a further 24.5p to 561.5p, a 47p two-day ad-



ist distributor, motored 102.5p to 340p as a possible bidder arrived in the spring. The Euemerged but shopfitter Havelock Europa crashed 108p to 142p following a warning profits were being hit by sterling's strength. Ushers of Trowbridge, the brewer, remained flat on

Wednesday's profit warning,

falling another 9p to 85p. Vickers firmed 1p to 249p while Mayflower, the possible buyer of its Rolls-Royce cars division, fell a further 5.5p to 184p. T Clarke, a little electrical installer, surged 17p to company provides credit for 98.5p after declaring a 17p a motorists involved in no-fault share special dividend. Current accidents. trading, it said, was encouraging. It has won contracts for power installations at Har- Leech, chief of ML Laborarods in Knightsbridge and the tories, has lifted his interest to

at Heathrow. Aston Villa, despite its ML's finance director, has Euro success, ran into selling, around 1 per cent.

TAKING STOCK

Era, the struggling retailer, held at 3,25p as a consortium led by entrepreneur Lake Johnson was revealed as a possible buyer of its Tecno camera chain. Mr Johnson's team includes Charles Dunstone of The Carphone Warehouse and electrical retailer Julian Richer. It is believed the group attempted to mount a reverse takeover before Era came under new management. There is speculation Mr Johnson and friends still see Era as a possible vehicle for a stock

Avocet Mining rose 8p to 150p as Société Générale Strauss Turnbull forecast it could move from losses into profits of £10.5m in the year to March 1999. The company is a leading producer of tungsten, where demand is increasing, and has gold operations in Malaysia.

market presence.

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26/BUSINESS

Microsoft Corporation dome Page; Delcome to P

Microsoft's push to link cable TV up with the Net

Microsoft, Bill Gates' software giant, is hoping to take centre-stage as the Internet and television converge by linking up with leading US cable companies. Cathy Newman asks what Microsoft stands to gain, and what cable companies have to lose.

In recent weeks. Microsoft has reportedly been talking with all the hig US cable companies -US West. Tele-Communications (TCI). Cox Communications, and Time Warner.

Microsoft's interest in television took off earlier this year when it invested \$1bn (£600m) in an 11.5 per cent stake in Comcast, the fourth-largest cable television operator in the US, and bought Web TV Networks, a digital television set-top box maker, for \$425m.

Recent reports suggest Microsoft wants to make substantial investments in both US West and TCI. In addition, the company is believed to have held discussions with Cox and Time Warner about developing content if Microsoft doesn't," software for digital television.

Microsoft is intent on making itself indispensable when, next year, a new-generation set-top box - the device which unscrambles digital television signals - will give US customers simultaneous access to television and the Internet.

In return for sharing the financial burden of setting up new interactive services, Microsoft is hoping to gain control over the software used to enable viewers to access the Internet on TV screens. The move would

Foreign Exchange Rates

enable Microsoft to dominate in the home entertainment market, just as it presently enjoys a virtual monopoly in the personal computer market.

Microsoft would be able to get its products into tens of millions of US homes subscribing to cable television, as potential profits from mainly office-based computer software tail off. Whereas, in the UK, cable penetration is struggling to take off, in the US, roughly 60 per cent of households with access to cable subscribe.

Mark Lambert, telecoms analyst at Merrill Lynch, says: "Over the last 12 months. Microsoft has recognised the growing potential of the value of delivery into the home."

He adds that cable has become attractive to Microsoft as many of the new interactive services being developed use a lot of capacity. Cable has the right infrastructure for interactivity as it provides a far wider bandwidth than most ordinary telecoms networks.

Microsoft is obviously keen to identify an opportunity before someone else does, "Someone else might be able to control the conduit as well as the says Mr Lambert.

Fred Moran, managing director of Furman Selz, a subsidiary of ING Barings, says: "We believe there will be further activity between Microsoft and the cable companies. Microsoft wants to expedite the development of the cable set-top box and ensure their software gets utilised in the process."

But Microsoft is not necessarily the only beneficiary of the alliances. Far from seeing Microsoft as a threatening mono-polist, Mr Moran reckons

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Interactive TV could expand Bill Gates' software market into millions of homes

the software company provides "one of the cable industry's biggest opportunities".

Talks of Microsoft's overtures to the likes of TCI and US West have done wonders for shares in cable companies. Mr Moran estimates that since Microsoft invested in Comcast, cable stock prices have appreciated by more than 50 per cent. TCI has almost doubled its value.

Cable operators have had to foot a vast bill in order to build networks, and Microsoft's \$9.63ba cash-pile could come in useful. "They could use Microsoft's help in cleaning up their balance sheet," Mr Moran says. There are signs, though, that

Interest Rates

the cable industry may hesitate before getting into bed with Microsoft. In August, John Malone, TCI's chairman, was quoted as saying: "Bill [Gates] has to accept the fact that he cannot have quite the dominance in supplying our industry as he has developed in supplying the PC industry." And Brian Roberts, president of Comcast, has made it clear Microsoft will not necessarily be the sole provtop boxes just because it has a

stake in the cable company. US cable sources say Microsoft is beginning to compromise over the terms on which it invests in the new

digital products. They argue that Microsoft cannot afford to use heavy-handed negotiating tactics, especially as it faces the US Justice Department next month over allegations that the conditions attached to the installation of its Internet browser are anti-competitive.

Four years ago. Microsoft talked to TCI and Time Warner about forming a group to make software for the interactive caider of software for the new set- ble systems developed before the Internet took off. Those talks collapsed when the cable operators became concerned at the software company's dominance. That may yet prove the stumbling block once again.

Liffe Financial Futures

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



Tricky business, being a Government minister with a highly paid City solicitor as a husband, as Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, is. The husband in question is David Mills, a partner of the City law firm Withers, and incidentally, the brother in law of Barbara Mills, Director of Public Prosecutions and a former head of the Serious Fraud Office.

Questions have been asked about Ms Jowell's part in the decision to exempt Formula One from the ban on tobacco sponsorship because Mr Mills was once a director of the Formula One company, Benetton Formula. This may be only the start of her problems however, for Mr Mills has a client list as long as your arm just riddled with possibilities for conflict of interest.

Mr Mills is certainly no stranger to the media spotlight. Back in 1996, the English and the Italian newspapers were on Mr Mills' trail when it was revealed that the offices of CMM, the corporate services company of which he was a director, had been raided by the Serious Fraud Office at the request of the Italian authorities. Although there was no question of Mr Mills

or CMM being involved in anything untoward. CMM reportedly had in its possession at the time a number of documents relating to a company controlled by Silvio Berlusconi, the then Italian premier. The Italian authorities were then investigating allegations that Mr Berlusconi was involved in a £51m fraud, using money from his company Fininvest to bribe tax inspectors and politicians.

Withers is primarily a family law firm, according to the magazine for lawyers Legal Business, with "a great private client base". Many of these clients are Italian, a factor that is at least in part due to Mr Mills' excellent Italian connections. Ms Jowell presumably has her fingers crossed that there is never a public health scare involving Parmesan cheese or spaghetti. At least in part through his association with

his long-standing client Mr Berlusconi, Mr

Industrial Metals

Mills has also had his fingers in all sorts of media pies. He was once a director of Leopard Communications and Reteitalia UK Limited (now called Libra UK Communications), both film companies.

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Breen French 3

John Willis, former director of programmes at Channel 4 until he was pipped at the post for the chief executive's job by Michael Jackson, has finally chosen a new employer. After reportedly turning down offers from both Granada and Yorkshire Television, Mr Willis has agreed to take charge of network productions at United Broadcasting & Entertainment, which has been responsible for, amongst others, Channel 5's flagship programme The Jack Docherty Show.

But this will not be the first time that Mr Willis has come into contact with the folks at Channel 5. In 1996, Channel 4's then director of programmes put rival Channel 5's nose out of joint by winning the race to secure rights for popular US shows ER and Friends.

Let's hope that Mr Willis's new business associates at the UK's youngest terrestrial TV channel have short memories.

Fred Goodwin, the 39-year-old head of the Scottish bank Clydesdale, came into work yesterday finding that his workload had more or less doubled overnight. In addition to his current responsibilities at Clydesdale, Mr Goodwin was yesterday made chief executive of Clydesdale's sister organisation, the Yorkshire Bank. But the energetic Mr Goodwin didn't seem too fazed by all. "I'm looking forward to the challenge," he said.

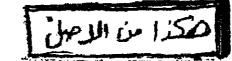
Mr Goodwin, who proudly unveiled a strong set of first-half figures for both Yorkshire and Clydesdale yesterday, is no stranger to late nights, somewhat opaque banking practices and complicated asset trails, skills which will no doubt serve him well in his new role. Before joining Clydesdale in 1995, Mr Goodwin, then partner in City accountancy firm-Touche Ross, was looking after the liquidation of BCCL "I still bear the scars." he chuckled vesterday. "I met some interesting people," he added, "though I may be unlikely to come across them again!"

It seems that traders at London's futures exchange Liffe have followed the advice of recent research published by Glasgow University, and turned to computer games as a means of relaxation. The game of choice for stressed out dealers, it seems, is a computerised quiz show known as "You don't know Jack".

The game has proved so popular that traders yesterday persuaded its UK publishers, BMG Interactive, to sponsor a lunch-time match between Liffe traders and some of their pals in a City pub. The company sportingly promised 50 guid to all semi-finalists and a bit of cash and some computer software to the winner. So who was the king egg-head? Paul Robinson of TNT Futures, according to a spokesperson for BMG.

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27/RACING

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890 CSF 12737. 2.50: 1. Wil.DE MUSIC (J Osborne) 9-2; 2.50: 1. WILDE MUSIC (I) Osborne) 9-2; 2. Kadestrol 13-8 fav; 3. Nordenski 7-1 8 ran. 4,7 (C Brooks, Lambourn) Yote: \$500; 1:60 Cidi, 12:50 DF: 62:70 CSF: \$183. Two: \$10:10. NF: Tennessee King. 3.20: 1. Ol MOTHER (A Maguire) 11-10 fav; 2. Hurricane Jane 9-2; 3. Losentherg Express 18-1, 10 ran. ½, Ind. (D Notholson, Temple Guling). Total: \$2.20: \$130, \$130, \$2.70 DF: \$4.20 CSF: \$6.75 Trio: \$2830, \$3.51 SEPANDIO & Haran-10-0.6 Ex-

Place 6: £212.94 Place 5: £119.49.

THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS DONCASTER 971 UTTOXETER 972 982 HEXHAM 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS <u>08</u>91 261 970 Calls cost Slip per curatic. TLS plc. Scretton SI 6C24 4PI

Vets work to save Singspiel as fracture ends his career

The linchpin of Britain's challenge for the Breeders' Cup, Singspiel, has suffered a lifethreatening injury just 48 hours before what would have been the final race of his recordbreaking career. Richard Edmondson reports from Los Angeles.

A gallop in the fog ended Singspiel's participation in the Breeders' Cup here yesterday. Veterinarians are now working to ensure it does not also terminate his life.

The little horse, the biggest earner in the history of European racing, broke a cannon bone as he continued his preparation for tomorrow's Turf race. After 20 contests, spread over track. Then there was nothing. four seasons, a life-threatening injury struck just 48 hours before his final mission. "It would have been his last race and at least it's a lot better this happening today than on Saturday because he would have been going a lot faster then." Anthony It was immediately obvious

UTTOXETER

1.10 Royal Barge 1.40 Monaco Gold 2.10 Glamanglitz 2.40 Claire's Dancer 3.10 Tejano Gold 3.40 Merilena 4.10 SWEET CISEAUX (nap)

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in home straight).

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in home straight).

Left-hand course Run-in of 170yd.

Course is south east of sown near B5017 Unioneter station (Derby-Crave ine) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Oub £15 (OAPs £12). Tattersails £10 (OAPs £7): Silver Ring £2 CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: W Pipe — 39-130 (S00%). D Nicholson 20-88 (227%), N Twintion-Davies 17-91 (87%). P Hobbs £63 (93%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durnwoody 36-150 (24%), A P NicCoy 25-91 (275%). N Williamson 23-127 (£1%). A Maguire 22-105 (21%).

GEADURITES: 240 wins from 635 rides (378%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.10 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN MAIDEN HURDLE

(CLASS E) £3.250 2m 6f 110vds

PPSPP ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT (247) F Lloyd 7 ti 5 ... S McHelli

Q ALTHREY CAPTAIN (714) F Lloyd 7 ti 5 ... S Wymne

12/4 CHILLED (364) Mrs J Pimen 5 ti 5 ... S Wymne

12/5 CHILLED (364) Mrs J Pimen 5 ti 5 ... A Thomson

20/5 KALARROSS (595) W Jense 6 ti 5 ... A T. Jentes

20/5 KALARROSS (595) W Jense 6 ti 5 ... A T. Jentes

20/6 WY FRIEND BRLY (161) T BI 5 ti 5 ... J. Culdoly

Q DVMM SADES (755) B Dens 7 ti 5 ... W Mestern

1.40 INTERNATIONAL COMBUSTION

22,375 2m 4f 11UyOS

22:19 MONACO GOLD (24) (BF) Mrs M Revoley 5 ft 5 __P Niven
46:3(*) BOLD AMBITTON (578) T Kersey 10 to 2 ______ Harvey
57430 EWAR BOLD (198) K Wangsone 4 to 2 _____ Report
1854 SEA (1854) (7315) B Lewellyn 4 to 2 ____ G Tormity
2321 KARICLEIGH BOY (29) R Frost 9 to 2 _____ J Frost
66)40 LILLIO (7457) R Lee 5 to 2 _____ G Hogen (3)

2321 KARSCLEIGH BOY (29) R First 9 10 2 ______ Frost 9 (6540; LILLO (1457) R Lee 5 to 12 ______ MA Riagentid (6540; LILLO (1457) R Lee 5 to 12 ______ MA Riagentid (6425) PRINCELY AFFAIR (13) J M Bradby 4 to 2 ____ B Fenton 8 LIFT RACING HAWK (36) P Bowen 5 to 2 _____ Ma R Amason 9 5-43 ROVAL HAMD (11) R Armson 7 to 2 ____ Ma R Amason 9 5-43 ROVAL HAMD (11) R Armson 7 to 2 ____ Ma R Amason 9 5-43 ROVAL HAMD (11) R Armson 7 to 2 ____ Ma R Amason 9 5-43 ROVAL HAMD (16) M R Bosley 5 to 12 ____ I Lawrence 4605 TIP YOUR WAITHESS (199) B CUTY 4 to 12 __ I Aspell (3) CVS. CRABE CRACKER (750) Mas S Whon 8 to 7 M Williamson (33334 ESKIMO KISS (24) (D) J Macket 4 to 7 ___ E Husband (5) CILLIFATR BEAUTY (13) Mas L Stocked 4 to 7 ___ E Athornton 5 ROVAL HAMD (13) Mas L Stocked 4 to 7 ___ S Fox.

2.10 ROYAL MAIL NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,250 2m 5f

CHASE (CLASS E) £4,23U 2TH 3T

2022 GLAMARGLITZ (9) (CD) P Dalon 7 2 0 ... A P McCoy
13 OP FRENCH BUCK (21) N Twiston-Davies 7 th O.C Llewellyn B
1924 C (LERRACH PETER (23) Mrs P Bickerton 10 10 7 ... Harvey
1917 SAXON MEAD (14) (D) (87) P Hobbs 7 10 7 ... P Duratoody
1918 WTM NO GMI (165) (D) A J Wiston B 10 5 ... M Williamson
19432 LITTLE GAINS (185) R Lies 8 10 4 ... A Maguire
19432 CANT SAY (28) J M Bradley 5 10 0 ... B Fenton
1947 TOTAL ASSET (17) A Forbes 7 10 0 ... Gary Lyons
1947 Gary Lyons
1947 Canter Say (28) J M Bradley 5 10 0 ... Gary Lyons
1947 TOTAL ASSET (17) A Forbes 7 10 0 ... Gary Lyons
1948 Canter Say (28) A B declared 1948 Canter Say Lyons
1948 Canter Say (28) A B declared 1948 Canter Say Lyons
1948 Canter Say (28) A B declared 1949 Canter Say Lyons
1948 Canter Say (28) A B declared 1949 Canter Say Lyons
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1949 Canter Say (28) Canter Say (28) Canter Say Lyons
1949 Canter Say (28) Canter

Schedung weight: 192: Inno arendop weight: Total Asset St. 2th.
 BETTING: 11-4 Senon Mead, 7-2 Germangliz, 5-1 Wot No Gin, 11-2 Little Gaine,
13-2 Feenoh Buck, 7-7 Correigh Paler, 12-1 Carrl Say, 18-1 Total Asset

HYPERION

HEXHAM

NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G)

lect, 12-1 Dan De Man, 33-1 My Friend Silly, 50-1 others

£2,375 2m 4f 110yds

Singspiel's owner, Sheikh Mohammed, said. "I hope he can he saved for stud."

The lithe form of Singspiel had beguiled all the American workwatchers since his arrival in Los Angeles. He had become the horse of the Breeders' Cup. Much of his work had been under clear, Californian skies, but yesterday the five-year-old emerged to conditions far more familiar to him and reminiscent of a Newmarket gallops morning. Visibility was down to 100 yards as a grey pall enveloped Hollywood Park.

Singspiel and his regular work rider. Kevin Bradshaw, were let on to the turf course just outside the track kitchen. The partnership cantered into the cloud of mist and a walkietalkie report relayed that the horse was galloping just past the wire on the opposite side of the

The wait became too protracted for comfort and Michael Stoute, Singspiel's trainer, scuttled off in search of his horse. When Stoute returned both he and Bradshaw were at the five-year-old's side. Stroud, the racing manager to that the horse's Breeders' Cup

was over. "I could not see the work myself because of the fog," Stoute said, "but he breezed for four furlongs and, just about 20 yards before the line, Kevin felt something go."

Singspiel's condition appeared to deteriorate over every limping yard back to the high, green-fenced quarantine yard. He had a piteous look in his eye. The contest he had now been thrown into was the one to save his life and Steve Buttgenbach, a track vet, was the first medical man to attend the horse. Around him there were tears in the Stoute camp.

An x-ray was taken to determine whether the damage was clean or a more serious spiral fracture. The results confirmed the former. "He sustained a mildly displaced condylar fracture of the right forelimb," Stroud said, "It is anticipated that his injury will require surgical stabilisation on probably Friday and Saturday, depending on his progress.

The prognosis for such an injury is normally favourable, barring any complications, and the recovery period would be between two and four months." By then, Singspiel himself.

2.40 FLINT BISHOP & BARNETT CONDITIONALS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,250 2m

Minimum: 10st. Taja handicap weight: Sophies Dream & Un Pozo Loco 9ct 12tb. BETTING: 4-1 Mr Montague, 9-2 Moonlight Escapade, 11-2 Qualitair Pricie, 8-1 Claim in Denote, Real Fire, 8-1 Oakbury, Summer Villa, 10-1 Soldier

3.10 UNDERGEAR 'TERRA TIRE' NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2m

13P13- SMOLENSK (167) (D) (BF) J Berry 5 10 12.... R Durant 20346- TEJANO GOLD (174) (CD) P Bradley 7 10 12... R John

3.40 IBM GLOBAL SERVICES H'CAP HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £4,000 2m 4f 110yds

Affilmum wegde; 10st. Thus handicap wegde: Sweet Noble 8st 11tb. BETTING: 5-2 Prussle, 3-1 Sweet Noble, 4-1 Pingo Hill, 5-1 Merilan 8-1 My Man in Duodeft, 10-1 Frontier Flight 4.10 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE

(CLASS F) £3,000 3m 110yds

3352 BALLINDOO (8) (D) R Armson 8 ft 4 ______ Mr R Armson 8 ft 4 _____ Mr R Armson 802-02 DON'T TELL TOM (16) H Huynes 7 ft 1 ____ A Magate 2233U BLAZANT CUTRUSST (7) Mes S Wison 7 ft 1 A P McCoy Y 902213 ON MY TOES (33) (EF) R Frost 6 ft 0 .____ J Frost

2.50 FEDERATION SELLING HANDICAP HDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m 4f 110yds

HDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m 4f 110yds

5224 MONOS (13) (C) 6 M Moore 6 17 0 ... M Harnaby (7)

PPP-10 STRATHARORE LODGE (25) Ms I. Peter 8 18 6... D Bertley

5300-2 HIGH PERHOWE (8) K Hogg 9 10 3 ... M Foster

4 13/FT- COPPERHURSE (26) W Kemp 8 10 10... M Commack (7)

5 00FF6 ALLERSY (167) J Gooding 9 10 9 ... B Gratter (5)

6 444-04 THARSES (8) (0) W Smith 2 10 0 ... S Toylor (6)

7 CO-5 TOPLP (49) M Bartes 4 10 0 ... B Storey

8 06000- BOYZOMTOOWA (241) W Storey 5 10 0 ... M Molocosy

9 /SPF6 BASSICKOFT (23) Mics S Williamson 7 10 ... J Supple

10 46530 MEADOWALECK (29) W Young 8 10 0 ... A Doming (7)

11 /00FP OUSSETLET BOY (412) Mics M Milligen 5 10 0 D Thomas (7)

12 /RPULP RESAUL /EST (9) B Marray 7 10 ... W Dwan

1-12 declared
48 hourst weight: 10s. The hendicap weight: Thasis 8st 130, Topup 8st 110s, Basincroft 8st 9th, Mandowlack 9st 6th, Curelled Boy 8st 40, Regar Jest 6st 10s.

We 5-2 Stratement Lodge, 11-4 Nonies, 7-2 High Penhowe, 7-1 therst, 10-1 Allerby, 14-1 Thersis, 20-1 Meadonfeck, 25-1 Boy-st, Topup, 33-1 others

3.20 FEDERATION NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) 23,600 2m 110yds

JADIOH (260) P Richers 9 109 D Salter 5 SWEET CISEALIX (8) P Bower 4 10 9 (7ed P Miner I SINGLESCLE (281) (D) Mrs P Sty 12 10 6 W Measton

00P- JENARO (2021 W Jenis 6 10 12....

litve Streek, 14-1 Just For A Resson, 20-1 Jamero

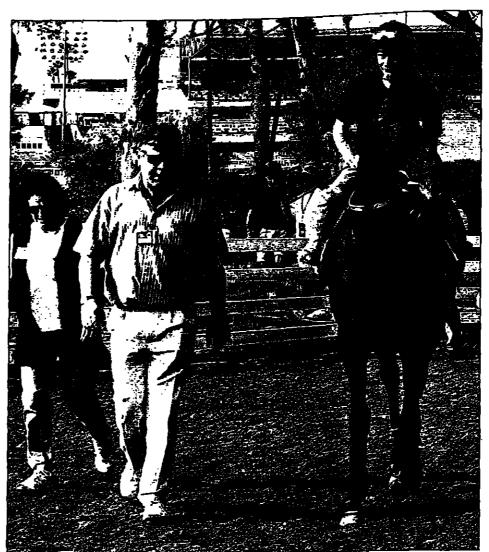
Mak, 14-1 Distant Storm, 33-1 others

was bandaged and standing in ice. The trauma he was feeling was stabilised by medication. Sheikh Mohammed was contacted in Dubai.

As the natural mist lifted, another descended with the realisation that not only was the meeting's figurehead out but Britain's challenge had been reduced to a rump. It was time to remember happier times, and Stroud and Stoute concurred on Singspiel's greatest moment. "The Dubai World Cup was his best race because he met seasoned American horses on a surface more familiar to them." the trainer said. "That was his crowning moment."

Stroud added: "That is why this horse is so special to Sheikh Mohammed, because he won the Dubai World Cup. That was definitely the pinnacle of his career. It's very disappointing but these things happen with horses. They are not machines.

"This horse has done us very, very proud. He's won in England, Ireland, Dubai, Japan and Canada. The main thing now is to try to save the horse. He's been versatile, tough and consistent. He's done us majestically really."



Singspiel is accompanied by his trainer, Michael Stoute, as he steps out on the track at Photograph: Harry How Hollywood Park prior to his injury yesterday

44(220 ELRAAHA (40) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maksoum) M Jarvis 3 8 4......

-- 8 declared BETTING: 100-30 Wahibe Sands, 7-2 Beauchamp Jade, 4-1 Carlsbrooks, 11-2 Sacho, Swe Herself, 10-1 Elbestra, Ster Precision, 100-1 Mount Gentus 198: Prussen Bue (USA) 4 9 7 W Ryen 11-4 co fay (1 Cacil) drawn (1) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE:

Sweetness Hereelt was in tramendous torn around this time last term, completing, five-timer when nerrowly defeating Orchestra Stall in a two-miler here and, whilst sheart won since Haydock in March, has run several sound reces and put up her bet display of the season when litth in the Park Hill here in September. Mick Ryans fill felded in the ruck in the Cesarewitch and was besten almost a dozen langths when thin

OOPS PETTIE, who went in at Crepative (maiden) and over course and distance last season, hasn't shown the same sparkle this year but has as good a chance as any here on her most recent run when fourth of 17 to behind Al Azhar over two furlongs turther on this course two weeks ago. Julie Cecifs filly held every chance a furlong out and the return to shorter should suit. Oop Fettlie is 18th better in with MeGalilyouddy Reelss, who nearly ive lengths behind here Unconditional Love hasn't won since her juvenile days in 1995 but site has finished runner-up on three occasions this year and, although only lifth (of 11) to Strazo at Nottingham on Monday – Bee's Ruby mess behind in north – looks the chef threat.

3.00 AMCO CORPORATION NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £3,527

SETTING: 7-2 Rare Indige, 4-1 Cost Prospect, 14-1 Legal Lark, 16-1 Smooth Selling, 20-1 others 9996. Nymaton 2-9-2 L Dettori 7-1 Li Dungoj drawn (2-9-2) Lark, 16-1 Smooth Selling, 20-1 others 9996. Nymaton 2-9-2 L Dettori 7-1 Li Dungoj drawn (2-9-2) Lark, 16-1 Smooth Selling, 20-1 others 9996. Nymaton 2-9-2 L Dettori 7-1 Li Dungoj drawn (2-9-2) Lark, 16-1 Smooth Selling, 20-1 others 9996. Nymaton 2-9-2 L Dettori 7-1 Li Dungoj drawn (2-9-2) Li Dungoj Prospectiva (2-9-2) Li Dungoj Pr

After wins at Wolverhampton (seller) and Cattertok lest month, RARE INDIGO made a bold attempt for the hat-trick at Lingfield but was just run out of it by Logs Be Frendly. She can make her first appearance in this type of event a winning one. Clausy Clao, claimed by David Evens out of Richard Hannon's stable for £2,000 in September, was scoring for the fourth time when beasing Carol Singer two lengths at Yammouth is the month - Ivory's Jay and Touchanova titth and seventh of nine. Classy Clao tinished runner-up to Happys Days Again (who was fourth to her at Yammouth) under a 7th penalty at Newmentest two days afterwards and size can again table care of the this who finished behind her at the Norfolk track. She also holds Escudo on their running when third and ninth of 15 to Special Treat at York.

3.30 DRANSFIELD NOVELTY COMPANY STAKES (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2YO 1m Penaity Value £4,315

4.00 C.J.S.W.O. HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 5f Penalty Value £4,240

BETTING: 7-1 Mon Bruce, 8-1 Swam At Whatley, Mange Park, 10-1 Broadstairs Basely, Poly Go Rightly, Southern Doutinion, 12-1 Bowlers Boy, Placeling, Swinc, Palo Blanco, Sur Me, 14-1 oth

12.30 High And Mighty 1.00 Mystic Flight 1.30 Prima Facle

3.30 Angstrom 4.00 Southern Dominion

David Loder's youngsters elverys know their job and the Newmarket hander's SILLEONARTE, a Distant Relative colt and the first foal of good stayer Miss Plum (who was in the same stable and ownership) can make a winning debut. John Gosden landed this a year ago with Handsorne Ridge and this time runs the debutant High And Milghty and Jasti. High And Milghty and Jasti. High And Milghty are Shritey Heights half-brother to Poule d'Essal des Poulains victor Vetori, was backward when slowly away and umplaced on his debut at Newmarket three weeks ago and will do better this time. Jasti, a son of Alzac, was a 50,000 gns yearing and is reli-brother to a couple of winners. Plans The Reast shaped well first time up in rinshing a langth-end-a-half runner-up behind hotpot Dark Moondancer at Heydock and still showed signs of inexperience when only that of four to Demier Croise at Redock, so holds sure

ı	to	progess.	Select	ton: BILLIONAIRE
	6	1.00	COOPERATIVE BANK MAIDEN STAKES (CII) £4,050 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £3,	XLASS D) (DN 494
ı	1	6	AL-FATEH (21) (A Bahbahari) J Dunion 9 0	K Darley 2
ı	2	80	BEST QUEST (24) (Exces of the late Herbert Allen) J Gooden 9 0	
i	3		ELBARREE (Shelith Ahmed Al Maktourn) M Jarvis 9 0	
1	Ā		ETHEREAL (Streich Michammad) D Locker 9 0	
1	5	0	FIELDS OF OMAGH (USA) (14) (Paul Malon) / Baiding 90	S Whitworth 3
ı	Ă		GOLDEN LYRIC (15) (Mollers Racing) G Wagg 9 0	
ı	7	•	HIGH-RISE (Shelich Michammed Obaid Al Maktourn) L Current 9 0.	R Firench (3) 10
Į	8	34	NORTH OF THE BORDER (11) (Robert Aird) M Johnston 90	. Dean McKeown 18
1	ě		PINSHARP (14) (K Weston) P Howing 90	
	10		TEMERAIRE (USA) (K Aboutet) Mrs A Perrett 90	T Culm 8
ı	ī		VOLONTIERS (FR) (The Commoners) P Harris 9 0	A Culbane 13
i	12		CELEBRATION (The Queen) I Saiding 89	
ı	13		JANET LINDUP (W.) Gredievi B Hills 8.9	D Holland 15
ì	14	05	MAGIC SPRING (11) (Falcisomo Racing) X McAulife 8 9	F Egen 16 لـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
ł	5		MOLE CREEK (Lord Vestev) J Forsham 69	# Day 4
ı	16		MYSTIC FLIGHT (USA) (Cheden Stud) A Charlem 89	T Sprake 14
ı	7		OLINE THE TWIST (USA) (Landon Knight) J Gosden 8.9	
1	l ë	0	TREASURE (S.AND) (31) (Lord Derby) Sr M Prescott 89	G Dutfield 17
1	1		- 18 declared -	

BETTING: 3-1 Ethernel, 4-1 North Ofthe Border, 5-1 Best Guest, 13-2 High-Rise, 6-1 Jamet Lindop, 8-1 Al-Fatah, Myetic Flight, 12-1 Fields Of Oreagh, Yeneraire, 14-1 Golden Lync, 20-1 others 1996: See District 1

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

David Locier's can also be on the mark here with another debutant in ETHEREAL. The Fary King colt is the third foal of the Mr Prospector mans Secret Seeler (full-sister to Gone West and Lion Cavern and from the family of Know Fact), both of whose previous offspring were winners as juveniles. North Ofthe Border, a length-and-a-half third to market leader Set final on his debut at Ayr last month, was still green when fourth to Ather at Leicester 11 days ago and looks sure to improve, John Goeden, who won this a year ago with Hendsome Fidge and runs two in the first division, is also doubly represented here by Best Quest and Oliver The Twist. Best Quest didn't do badly when fifth of the Debug subjected to a pulshing race after a slove start. He was probably unsulted by the soft ground when unplaced at Ayr. Barry Hilles Jenset Lipiding. A Schrieht fifty, is out of Durfermine's half-sizer Tertar Propernel, winner of the May Hill and the Galtres Stakes and the dam of many winners.

perner, v ucing Co	winner of the May Pill and the Galifes Stakes and the Gain of Highly Winners Nour Sergeent (1982 Royal Hurt Cup). Selection: ETHEREAL
.30	GIBSON BOOTH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £4,053
60	AGANON (14) (Kingadown Recing) M Channon 9 0
0	ALBREGHTON (18) (Peter Revision) B Rothwell 9 0
	BRIERY MEC (C D Cole) H COMMONO98 9 0
60	BROOKSE (14) (Mrs Shifley Troiman) J His 9 0
0	CROFTERS EDGE (34) (Croher's Edge) A Jarvis 9 D
00	EMPIRE STATE (21) (Miss D.J. Messon) M Tompletes 9 0
	FASRICE (Greenfeet Ltd) H Candy 8 (July 12)
03	MASHA-L (30) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Gosdan 9 0
0	PRPE MUSIC (16) (Lord Scansdale) P Hastern 9 0
	RACHAELS NORTH (P J Velet R Amsterng 9 0
0	REGAL ARROW (10) (Regal (Witney) Ltd) A Foster 9 0 T Spraker 4
00	SEVEN (34) (The Smart Set) B Smart 9 0 J Stack 18 B
	SHAJI (Hamdan Al Maktourn) C Bensteed 9 DT Williams 15
00	SHIPTLEY GLEN (14) (Ms L Burnet) Sr M Prescott 9 0
0	TANDAEAR (14) (J.K. Ruggles & Mrs. A.R. Ruggles) D. Haydn Jones 90
	BOW BELLS (Mrs R M S Negre) C Wall 89S Senders 1
	FIFTH EMERALD IN No. C Wel 89
36	LINDESBERG (11) (Brian Yeardley Contrantal Ltd) M Johnston 8 9
	PRIMA FACE (Creveley Park Stud) D Loder 8 9 J Fortune 6 SHANTUNG (11) (K & B Weitherell, Mrs Burke, C Krosinsky) K McAulifle 8 9 J F Egan 21
04	SHARITURIG (11) IX & B Welheld, Mrs Burk, C Krosinskyl K McAultie 8 8.J F Egen 21
30	SPLENDED (16), (Cheveley Park Stud) Str M Prescott 8 9 G Dometal 20
	-21 declared -
	30 80 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

BET (INVEC. 2-1 MINISTER).

did., 14-1 Bow Bells., 16-1 Stalpley Glass, 20-1 others
1996 Soviet State (USA) 2 9 0 J Reid 8-5 fav (P Chapple-Hyann) drawn (2) 17 ran
FORM GUIDE

DONCASTER

HYPERION

2.30 Hachiyah (nb) 3.00 Sulvez La Trace 2.00 Sweetness Herself

2.00 Sweetness Herself 4.00 Southern Dominion	display of the season when high in the Park Hill here in September, wick rivers my mi-
COING: Good. TALLS: Straight course - stands' side; round course - inside. TALLS: Straight course - stands' side; round course - inside. RAW ADVANTAGE: None. Left-hand, pear-shaped course with mile straight. Course is east of fown off the A638 (M18 Jots 3 & 4). Bus link from Doncaster Cenal station. ADMINSSION. Club St.N. Tattersalls St. Siver Ring St. CAR PARK: Fine. LEADING TRAINERS: B Hills - 34-188 (181%). J Gooden 31-55 (20%). J Duniop 30-44 (195%), H Cecil 25-106 (236%). LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darkey 55-289 (13%). W Ryan 21-141 (149%). J Carroll 17-160 (26%). J Fortune 15-83 (26%). PAVOURITES: 236 wins from 7/4 races (30.5%). LINKERED FIRST TIME: Seven (130).	ished in the ruck in the Casarewitch and was beaten almost a dozan lengths when thrid to Lady Of The Lake at Newmarket a week ago but could go close - especially if the ground softens up. All the same, CARISBROOKE is the one open to improvement and can supplement his highly impressive Kemptin malden victory. A son of of dual 1938 Derby hero Kahyasi, Caristrooke was racing for only the second time at the Surbury track, heving finished a length-end-e-quarier second to Tycooness at Repon in August. Wahiba Sanda comes here in cracking form after scoring at Ayr and Leicester and he goes on both fast and soft ground. Sacho, one-time ante-post favourite for last year s Derby, met with a setbackand, after a lengthy absence, made a wrining comeback at Leicester in September. However, he flopped when favourite and soft (origin) to Gratass in a Listed contest at Ayr. A filty in form must always be respected and Star Precision, successful in her first three starts this season and back on the wining trail when de- feating Keyboogie a length and a half in a three-runner race over an inadequete trip at
12.30 COOPERATIVE BANK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (Div	Lacester, should not be far away. She has won over a furlong shorter and should get this distance. Selection: CARISBROOKE
12.30) £4,050 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £3,524 W Ryan 15 BILLIONAIRE (Lucayan Sud) D Loder 90 G Carter 10 D BOLD LEGACY (14) (C LA Edonton) W Mur 90 Done O'Nall 1 D BOMB ALASKA (14) (Mas B Switze) § Balding 90 9 Drown 18 D HIGH AND BIGHTY (22) (Sheith Michemmed) J Gooden 90 G Phind 3 HOT SPOT (Queen Elzabeth) Balding 90 Martin Dayer 8 JAATI (Sheith Ahmed Al Makhoum) J Gooden 90 A Gwif 6 LUTTBE BELL (Bles W Phathed-Gordon) J Banks 90 J Sudd 16 MASAMADAS (M Tibrook) C Well 90 S Senders 13 MISALES (Mrs C Banday/Middeltem Park Racng Vin) P Hastarn 90 P Goode (7) 17 23 PASS THE REST (10) (J Boundree) J L Egre 90 T Wissers 2	2.30 RJB MINING LIONHEART STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added fillles & mares 1m 2f 60yds Penalty Value £4,753 1 2-110 BEA'S RUBY (4) M Tabor & Mrs. John Magnieri A Bailey 39 2
56 PIPED ABOARD (8) Aird Swaything J Dunlop 9 ()	SETTING: 9-4 Cops Petrie, 3-1 Linconditional Love, 7-2 Hachiyah, 5-1 Sweet Contrato, 6-1 Van-
0 SCORNED (GER) (22) (George Strandridge) Balding 9 0	laising Trick, 10-1 McGBlycuddy Reeks, 14-1 Bers's Ruby, 33-1 Absolutelystuming
TANKERSLEY (Walt Sylvester) A Hide 9 0	1996: Russean Snow 4 8 12 L Detton 5-2 jt fav (S trin Surcon) drawn (2) 9 ran FORM GUIDE
O GRLE SET (34) (3 S Shopshee) St M Prescott 8 9	OOPS PETTIE, who went in at Chepatow (maiden) and over course and distance last
HIGH AND LOW K Abdulati B Hills 8.9	season, hasn't shown the same spankle this year but has as good a chance as any here
0 NEEDWOOD SPITTIRE (11) (Needwood Rasing Ltd) 5 Morgan 8 9 D Biggs 4 PUTWEE (J R Hall) P Daton 8 9 L Charmoot 5	on her most recent run when fourth of 17 to behind Al Azhar over two furlongs further
PUNNEE & R Hell) P Datem 8 8 L Chemock 5	on this course two weeks ago. Julie Cecifs filly held every chance a furlong out and the

David Loder's youngstens always know their job and the Newnarkat handler's SILLIONAIRE

to progess.	Selection: BILL	JONAIRE
1.00	COOPERATIVE BANK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS ii) £4,050 added 2YO 7f Penaity Value £3,494	D) (Div
1 6	5 AL-FATEN (21) (A Bahbahari) J Dunion 9 0	K Darley 2
2 60	BEST CUEST (24) (Excrs of the late Herbert Allen) J Goaden 9 0	G Hand 11
3	ELBARREE (Shelift Ahmed Al Maktourn) M Jarvis 9 0	W Avan B
4	ETHEREAL (Shelkin Mohemmad) D Loder 9 0	Carter 12
5 0	FIELDS OF OMAGH (USA) (14) (Paul Malon) / Baiding 90	hBearth 3
8 0) GOLDEN LYRIC (16) (Molers Racing) G Wragg 9 0	igna (5) 6
7	HIGH-RISE (Shelith Mohammed Obaid Al Mektoum) L. Current 9 0	
	NORTH OF THE BORDER (11) (Robert Aird) M Johnston 90Dean Mc	
9 00	PINSHARP (14) (K Weston) P Howing 9 0	J Quina ?
10	TEMERAIRE (USA) (K Abdulah) Mrs A Perrett 9 0	
ti	VOLONTIERS (FR) (The Commoners) P Harris 9 0 A C	13 جمعطی
12	CELEBRATION (The Queen) Baiding 89	n Dwyer 5
13	JANET LINDUP (W.J. Gredler) B Hills 89	
14 05	MAGIC SPRENC (11) (Feldspring Racing) K McAulifle 89	F Egen 16
5	MOLE CREEK (Lord Vestey) J Farsham 69	N Day 4
16	MYSTIC FLIGHT (USA) (Cheden Stud) R Cherton 89	
17	OLIVE THE TWIST (USA) (Landon Knight) J Gosden 89	A Garth 1
16. 0	TREASURE ISLAND (31) (Lord Derby) Sr M Prescott 8 9	Nuttinid 17
	- 18 declared -	

1	.30	GIBSON BOOTH MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS added 2YO 6f Pensity Value \$4,053	D) £	4,55
_				
	en en	AGAMON (14) (Kingadown Recing) M Chennon 90	~nr	
	0	ALBREGHTON (18) (Peter Revisor) B Rothwolf 9 0	M P	March 1
		BRIERY MEC (C D Cate) H Collegratge 9 0		ا سفح
	60	BROOKSIE (14) (Mrs Shirley Trolman) J Hills 9 0	M Han	ry (3) 1
	Ð	CROFTERS EDGE (34) (Croher's Edge) A Janvis 9 D	C Louis	her (3)
	90	EMPIFE STATE (21) (Mass D. J. Merson) M Tompides 9 0	D	Blogs
		FABRICE (Gisonfield Ltd) H Candy 8 0	N A	dama 1
	029	MASHA-IL (30) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Gosdan 9 0	#	HHRs 1
	-0	PSPE MEUSIC (16) (Lord Scarsdale) P Hastern 8 0	L Char	mock 1
	•	RACHAELS NORTH (P J Velet R Amstrong 9 0	SL	aniont.
•	0	REGAL ARROW (10) (Regal (Witney) Ltd) A Foster 9 0	TS	Serake
	m	SEVEN (34) (The Smart Set) B Smart 9 0	_ j (s	- 18
	-	SHAJI (Hamdan Al Maktoum) C Bensteed 9 0	TWE	
!		SHIPLEY GLEN (14) (Ms L Burnet) Sir M Prescott 9 0.		Marie .
•	w	TANGERAR (14) (J.K. Ruggies & Mrs. A.R. Ruggies) D. Hayon Jones 9.0		بطانية: السلممة
!	u	COMMENT (14) A LUMBER O MISA II JURGOS D LEGULACIOS SAT		
•		BOW BELLS (Mrs R M S Neare) C Wall 89	_33	AKARIS
		FIFTH EMERALD IN No. C Wel 69.	A SEC	2002
,	35	LINDESBERG (11) (Brian Yeardey Commental Ltd) M Johnston 8.9	مة است	-
•		PRIMA FACE (Cheveley Park Stud) D Loder 89	F ليـــــ	CLUMP
)	04	SHANTUNG (11) (K & B Weitherell, Mrs Burks, C Krosinsky) K McAuliffe &	ا ج البيرة ا	Egan 2
1	30	SPLENDED (16) (Cheseley Park Stud) Sir M Prescott 8 9	G Da	meld 2
		-21 declared -		
-	MiQ- 2.1	Macha J. 7.9 Dring Facile 0.9 Indechant 9.1 Shanbutt 12-1 Pine	واعدائل	. Sale

LINDESBERG can make it third time tucky. Mark Johnston's runner, third (of four) behind four-length scores Special Treat at Redicar in September, showed the benefit of that first attempt when third of 22 behind Solo Spirit at Lelcester and there should be better atti to come. Masha-II, a IRTSQ000gns Denehill coft out of a half-sister to smart miler. Then Again, was severa and a half lengths off the winner when third to Milmah at York four weeks ago on only his second start and is another certain to progress. Prime Fecte, a nerwoomer from David Loder's yard, is by Primo Domini out of a mare who has thrown several winners including errent sprinter Splice.

Selection: LINDESBERG 2.00 CPL INDUSTRIES STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 1m 6f 132yds Penalty Value £4,884

Rightly, Southern Dominion, 12-1 Bowlers Boy, Pleading, Swino, Pale Blanco, Sue Me, 14-1 others
1998: High Domain 5 8 12 J Wesser 20-1 (J Spearing) drawn [13] 22 ran
1998: High Domain 5 8 12 J Wesser 20-1 (J Spearing) drawn [13] 22 ran
1998: High Domain 5 8 12 J Wesser 20-1 (J Spearing) drawn [13] 22 ran
1998: High Domain 5 8 12 J Wesser 20-1 (J Spearing) drawn [13] 22 ran
1998: High Domain 5 8 12 J Wesser 20-1 (J Spearing) drawn [13] 22 ran
1998: High Domain 5 8 12 J Wesser 20-1 (J Spearing) drawn [13] 22 ran
1998: Houngo Park, Sue Me and Mon Bruce and Search State (J Spearing) drawn [14] 25 13 10 10
1998: Sue Me is a fresh horse from a yeard that has a knack of revealising sport1998: Sue Me is a fresh horse from a yeard that has a knack of revalising sport1998: Sue Me is a fresh horse from a yeard that has a knack of revalising sport1998: Sue Me is a fresh horse from a yeard that has a knack of revalising sport1998: Sue Me is a fresh horse from a part that has a knack of revalising sport1998: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta) (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is a fresh horse from 10-1 (Monta)
1999: Sue Me is Balanca (Monta)

Call evokes old memories

Dorans Pride emerged victorious over Imperial Call at Clonmel yesterday, but a solid performance from the runnerup announced that he is again a Gold Cup contender.

Dorans Pride remains 6-1 favourite for the Cheltenham showpiece after his nine-length victory in the three-runner Morris Oil Chase, but Imperial Call, the 1996 Gold Cup winner, was cut to 12-1 by William Hill (from 16-1) after a promising effort on his first outing since being pulled up in this year's Gold Cup.

The BHB claimed yesterday that racing will lose £5m of funding because of the decision by the big three bookmakers to change the way they make levy payments. Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral are to revert to a shop-based scheme for calculating levy payments rather than one based on turnover.

RACING

MUSSELBURGH 12.30: 1. ANTARCTIC STORM (R Winston) 11-2; 2. Alfahaal 3-1 fav; 3. Scatthebury 10-1. 14 ran, Hd. 1½. (R Fahsy, Malton), Tota: 26.50; 21.50, 21.50; 23.50. DT: 20.40. CSF: £20.30. Thoast £15795. Tho: 26.60.

\$4060.

1.00: 1. DOC RYAN'S (P McCabe) 4-1;
2. Stasher Jack 6-1; 3. Moonraking 16-1
11 ran. 100-30 tav Back Row ½, 3. M Ryan,
Newmarket). Tota: \$3.90; \$1.20, £2.80, £5.40.
DF: \$18.00. CSF: £26.35. Tincast: \$236.24.
Tho: £207.40 NR: Brocume Line, Marm Moon.

Tino: 220740 NR: Brocaune Line, Marin Moor.
1.30: 1, TEN BOB (D Biggs) 3-1; 2, Wand Venfaire 2-1 (t fav; 3, Karmeez 5-1 8 ran.
2-1 (t fav; 6, Karmeez 5-1 8 ran.
3-1 (t fav; 6, Karmeez 6, Karmeez

2.30: 1. OUTSET (J Carrol) 11-1; 2. Here Comes Herble 9-1; 3. Nichol Fifty 6-1; 4. The Butterwick Kid 12-1, 17 ran. 5-1 fav There Aren. 2. 2%, (M Hammond, Mic-deham), Tota: \$1740; \$350, \$130, \$270, \$470. DF: \$3370, CSF; \$10001, Theast: \$2045 Tro: \$2080. 3.00: 1. PUTER! WENTWORTH (J For-

3.00: 1. PLITER! WENTWORTH (J Forture) 9-2 co lev; 2. Tycoon Tins 5-1; 3. Forzair 9-2 co lev; 2. Tycoon Tins 5-1; 3. Forzair 9-2 co lev; 12 rdin. 9-2 co lev Westminster 6, 6. [Miss Gay Kellewcy, Whitzombe] Tote: 1680; E180. Cand 162-20. DF: 16404 Ticast: 160070. Tino 163650. NR: Ant. 3.30: 1. GIFT OF GOLD (A Meckay) 6-1; 2. One Tin Go 33-1; 3. Times Angels 3-1; 9 ran. 11-8 fav Chocolate Bor (4th) 6, 2. fl Campbell, Newmarkel, Tote: 1690; E140. 1620. E120. DF: 1610. CSF: 16411. Trio: 162360. NR: Opening Mg/Tt. 4.00: 1, LUNCH PARTY (one Wands) 10-1; 2. Glien Ogil 7-1; 3. Nikapen Rocks. 16-1 14 ran. 7-2 fav Alpine Hidsaway, 11-4, [0 Nichels, Timsk) Tote: 16470; 1400. C300.

Jackpot: Not won, £225818 carned forward to Doncaster today Placepot: £1,45740. Quadpot: £136.30. Place 6: £254.32. Place 5: £144.47 LINGFIELD

LINGFIELD
1.40: 1. RISKY WHISKY (P Roberts) 4-1;
2. Swammore Lady 4-1; 3. Blue Shedow
9-2. 8 ran. 7-2 tav Rapid Relance 1/n, 1/n, (J
Berry) Tota: £340; £160; £120; £180 £7;
2780 £57: £77:8. Tricast: £8238 Tric: 2.10: 1. ANOKATO (Martin Durver) 10-1: 2. Palacegate Jack 11-2; 3. Another Batchworth 15-2. 10 ran. 9-2 fav Passion-ata 2. 1// (K hory). Tota: £060; £290, £210, £210. DF: £4480. CSF. £5021. Tincast: £4474. Tno: £9700.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Merilena (Uttoxeter 3.40) NB: Appearance Money (Hexham 3.20)

2.40: 1. NiGHT CITY (D Sweeney) 9-1; 2. Statajack 5-2 far; 3. Åt Liberty 3-1 13 cit. 2-k, 3-k, (K Burke), Tote: E1400; C3-70, E130, E140. DF: E14-40. CSF: E2784 Tno: E180. NR: Occiern (14-1) withdrawn not un-der orders, Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduct 5p in the pound. 3.10: 1. SARATOGA RED (D Holtand) 11-4; 2. Blushling Desert 8-1; 3. Marcozla 4-5 fav. 10 ran. ½, 2. (W O'Gorman) Tote C310: E130, E300, E130. DF: £7280. CSF: £7214.

22.14
3.40: 1. TWIN CREEKS (R Perham) 11-2;
2. Pateregate Touch 14-1; 3. Northern Angel 7-2. 15 ran. 3-1 fav Barbason (4th) 31/s. 31/s. 17-2 Song) 100: 250.
DF: 5308.0 CSF: \$7482 Trusst \$28481. Tro: \$1520. NR: Cee-N-K.
4.10: 1. SEA DANZIG (Miss R Immar) 16-1;
2. Magic Mill 6-1; 3. Master Beveled 5-1
14 ran. 9-2 fav Sharp Shuffle. 11/s. 1/s. (J. L)
Bridger, Tolar \$160, \$250, \$250, \$250, \$250.0 DF: \$2800.0 CSF: \$10552. Trosst \$22555. Trio. \$2810.

Place 6: £6182. Place 5: £3672.

Place 6: 26182 Place 5: 236.72

TOWCESTER

1.20: 1. SALS LEGEND (A P McCov)
5-2 tar; 2. Margil Boo 11-4; 3. Zahaadle 25-1
9 ran. 4. 13: (Mss Z Davison, Woldingham)
Tota: 5:350; 5:20. E120, E150. DF; 2390.
CSF: 5298. Tro: 5:700. NR: My Harvirola.
1.50: 1. FORTUNES COURSE (T J Murphy) 5-2: 2. Robeand 11-2; 3. The Whole Hog 2-1 tax 6 ran. 7, 17. (J King, Swindon). Tota: F120; E370. E290. DF; 25:50. CSF: 2451. Tricast: 5:06.37. Tro: C3120. NR: Furchion Gale, Shamarphi, Snow Board.
2.20: 1. MYSTIC COURT (C Rae) 8-1; 2. Holdcham Bay 7-2: 3. Zaisan 8-1, 7 ran.
4-6 tav Sar Manager (tith) 1.6. (Andrew Linnel, Wantage). Tota: 5:100; 5:30. S170. DF; E190. CSF: E3737.
2.50: 1. WILDE MUSIC (J Osborne) 9-2;

5270 DF: SA20 CSF: S675 Trio: 28830.
3.55: 1.5FENDIO (A Maguna) 9-2; 2. Five Flags 12-1; 3. Jefferles 7-2 lav. 10 ran. Shhit 8 (D Nicholson: Temple Guiring) Rote: 55:00; 52:00 C230, C250; 15:50. DF: 20270, CSF: 53:02:50. CS2070, CSF: 53:02:50. CSB: 7: Incast: 59:378. Trio: 10:02:50. A20: 1. QUISTAQUAY (Flichard Guest) 7-4 for; 2. Maylin Magle: 13-2; 3. Darik Romantos 14-1.9 ran. 3, 4, µ Malins, Andover). Total: CSB: 51:20, CSF: 514:28. Trio: 53:50.

1.20 Fern Leader 1.50 Katsar 2.20 Nawtinooksy 2.50 High Penhowe 3.20 Paparazzo 3.50 Key Grip GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places).

Left-frand, undulating course. Run-in of 250yd.

Resecourse is on minor mad 2m south of Hecham. Supposed from town, Hecham railway station is 2m away, ADMINSION: Cub 53; Paddock 55 (CAP PARK; Free Lebong TRAINERS: L Lurgo 9-78 (237%), G M Moore 17-54 (256%), G Richards 18-55 (297%), J Howard Johnson 4-94 (67%), C LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 24-94 (255%), R Greet 18-80 (53%), A Thornton 10-60 (627%), R Garrity 10-66 (52%).

FAVOURITES: 150 wire from 394 races (38.1%).

BLINGERED FIRST TIME: None. 1.20 BUCHANAN ALES MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 3m 1f HE-ED BARY LING SIG. 1 Houserd Johnson 7 th 5. A Thornton (3)
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8 6 PPD ROAL SPRUCE (27) G M Moore 6 it 5 Ms Benchey
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10 37924 STRONGALONG (27) P Chestrough 7 it 5 A S Smith
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18 the Man, 12-1 Strongalong, 16-1 Rubon Prince, 20-1 Cotistown Boy,
18 open Spaces, 25-1 Lord Pat, 33-1 others 1.50 PEDERATION BREWERY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 4f 110yds

2.20 KEOGHANS ALE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 2m 4f 110yds

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6-1 Hobbers Htt, 7-1 Kalpete, 8-1 Wild Brook, 10-1 Appearance Money,
14-1 Sanny Leith, 16-1 Mollins, 20-1 Aristodemos, 25-1 Brookweier Boy, 3.50 ICL PILS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) \$2,650 2m 60611/ HOUSE OF DREAMS (PZZ) G M Moore 5 12 0 _ M Bender PPP/F- CAMPY CHRONICLE (PSG) (D) P Montests 9 11 6

SOSID- ONYOUROWN (228) J Howard Johnson 4 10 2 ... A S Smith DOUT- ON THE OFF CHANGE (249) R McKeller 5 10 0 ... D Parker 5-5450 RURSSLAW (20) Mrs K Lamb 5 10 0 ... Misse S Lamb (7) V Maninum weight 10st True handloop weight On The Off Chence 9st 12th, roussew ast ro. . BETTING: 11-4 House Of Dreams, 7-2 Highland Way, 9-2 Key Grip, 13-2 Kerchem, 8-1 Apollo's Danginer, Kernof, 10-1 Amusing Sail, 12-1 Ony-ourcern, 20-1 Casery Chronicle, 23-1 On The Off Chance, 66-1 Rubisham

Holyfield's fighting spirit threatened by age concern

Evander Holyfield's re-match with Michael Moorer tomorrow may be one fight too far for a great heavyweight. Ken Jones reports from Las Vegas.

The way Evander Holyfield goes about his work in the ring is not beautiful or complicated, but each performance raises fresh admiration for a remarkable fighting spirit.

However, Holyfield's warrior instinct and realisation that he is still not identified as one of the great heavyweight champions could be a recipe for disaster.

Because so many of Holyfield's 36 professional contests, on top of the 174 he fought as an amateur, have fallen into the brutal category, his enthusiasm for the possibility of a unifying bout against the World Boxing Council champion

Lennox Lewis and another collision Holyfield's will, but there did not with Mike Tyson is worrying. Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Stew-

ard, is not alone in thinking that Holyfield, who recently turned 35, should have gone into retirement last June after his second victory over Tyson. "Evander is running a big risk," Steward said this week. "It is always difficult persuading fighters to quit, especially one so proud as this guy, but if he isn't careful we could have another Muhammad Ali tragedy. Of course, a unification contest suits our purpose but I'd hate to see it happen because Evander

ply too big and strong for him." Almost exactly five years ago, the morning after Holyfield lost the undisputed championship to Riddick Bowe on a decision, I fell into conversation with his then trainer. Lou Duva. A hard fight, one of the best in recent heavyweight history, had been notable for the extent of

could get badly hurt. Lennox is sim-

seem to be much of a future for him in boxing. "It's all over," Duva said. Together with other members of the family organisation, Duva was convinced that Holyfield would settle for the retirement they advised. "There's no point in him going on,"
I remember Duva saying. "Evander's got more money than he'll ever need and if he wants to stay involved

Choosing to ignore Duva's advice, Holyfield returned to the ring seven months later against a limited opponent, Alex Stewart. In winning a 12-round decision he looked awful. People shook their heads and reflected on the fact that fighters are usually the last to know then time has run out for them.

in boxing we'll find a place for him

the organisation."

When Holyfield signed to try and regain the World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation belts from Bowe (the

ship for refusing to defend against Lewis) no hope was held out for him and it was feared that he would take a terrible beating.

A couple of nights before the contest at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas I came across Holyfield in a lift. It was quite late and he was with the lady, a doctor, he subsequently married. Holyfield smiled and said that all was well with him. The encounter persuaded me to believe that Holyfield was merely trying to prove something personally and would disappear permanently from boxing if Bowe again proved too much for him.

Instead, he defeated Bowe before figuring in events that eventually caused people to think again about where a man who has had three separate reigns as champion stood in the

all-time heavyweight rankings. The loss of his titles to Michael

champion had been stripped of the Moorer figures as much in an World Boxing Council champion-assessment of Holyfield's status as the superiority he twice established over Tyson. Consequently, when Holyfield goes to his corner against Moorer tomorrow for the WBA and IBF titles they hold respectively, he will again have questions to answer. Was his defeat by the man from Detroit due to a shoulder injury or an undetected illness that led to concern, later removed, that he was suffering from a heart condition? Or was it simply that Holyfield could not overcome the difficulties posed

> by Moorer's southpaw stance? For all his shortcomings that night, Holyfield is convinced that he did enough to win a close contest. "The judges didn't see it that way." be said, "and I lost the titles. You can't erase what is in the record book so above all else this is an opportunity to redeem myself.

"The southpaw thing really wasn't that much of a problem. I just

wasn't myself in that fight." Holyfield was sitting on the apron of a ring in which be had gone three rounds with one of his four sparring partners. As usual he wore a serene expression. "When people ask how I could possibly have lost to Moorer, they should realise that a lot of things went on. I had injuries, especially in my shoulder, but I thought I could win without giving my all and didn't want to ask for a postponement. I allowed that to happen so I can't blame Moorer for my failure. When you lose it's your fault. There is no excuse."

If Holyfield's preparation for this contest has not been charged with the intensity that Tyson aroused, he is not taking Moorer lightly. "Tyson is a much stronger man than Moorer," he said. "If I choose I can push Michael into a position where he can be hit. Against Tyson, I could sit back and fight my fight because I knew he was going to be there.



Holyfield: Remains keen to meet Lewis and Tyson Photograph: Reuter

With Michael being a little awkward, I will have to press things. I need to come out and set the tempo immediately."

What Holyfield must also do is think seriously about what the hardest and most dangerous of sports, one that should never be referred to as a game, might eventually do to him.

Llanelli still in awe of the legends of '72

Stradey Park's consecration as a rugby shrine was inspired by a single sporting miracle: Lianelli's defeat of lan Kirkpatrick's Ali Blacks a quarter of a century ago. Tomorrow, the Scariets will attempt a repeat performance against Sean Fitzpatrick's tourists.

Chris Hewett found the link between past and present in Gareth Jenkins, the current Lianelli coach who played himself into Weish folklore back in 1972.

As the crow flies, Laugharne and Llanelli lie no more than a dozen miles apart on opposite sides of the River Tywi. If the former has its poet, Dylan Thomas, who famously reinvented his locality as Llareggub in Under Milk Wood, the latter is more earthy in its passion. It has its rugby club, by some distance the most celebrated sporting institution in Wales.

It is a measure of the esteem in which the Scarlets are held in these parts that rugby leaves literature for dead in the hearts and minds of those who love both. Pay a visit to Brown's Hotel, Dylan's favourite Laugharne watering hole, and there, overshadowing umpteen pictures of

the wordsmith enjoying his umpteenth pint, you will see one unforgettables. They were the and, in so doing, instigated a mass, day-long bender of such

Delme's heroes. Then a lean, languid flank forward, and relatively inexperienced at 21, he tore into the All Blacks without fear or favour on that emotioncharged afternoon. Together with the likes of Derek Quina vaunted New Zealand pack in its tracks. Roy Bergiers scored the only try of the game, Phil Bennett and Andy Hill kicked five points between them, and Llanelli sneaked it 9-3. Such is the stuff of legend.

Tomorrow Jenkius will watch from his coach's vantage point, just as the great Carwyn James did 25 years ago, as a very different Scarlets side, less gifted than their forebears but no less enthusiastic, attempt a repeat of the unimaginable.

enormous photograph of Delme Thomas and his 1972 Llanelli side who saw off New Zealand mighty excess that Thomas himself would have been forced to seek refuge at a health farm. Gareth Jenkins was one of

nell and Tom David, he stopped

"I've got to take my memories out of the equation," Jenkins said this week. "I can't afford to get all misty-eyed and nostalgic about what happened in '72, even though it was one of the greatest rugby days anyone could have shared in. This is a special occasion in its own right and what I have to do is impress upon the players that



History men: Lianelli's Delme Thomas and Derek Quinnell (centre) prepare to make the ball available during their side's victory over the All Blacks in 1972

they are about to play the hardest, most physical game they will ever encounter."

That detachment will not be easy for Jenkins, as he well knows. "The place is awash with nostalgia. Tonight, the club is hosting a black tie dinner for 800 people to mark the anniversary of the '72 game and, as far as I know, every one of the Scarlets who played that day will be there. The very fact that we are the one club side to be given a fixture with the All Blacks on this tour gives the

match an extra something and I suppose it is human nature to compare this to our day under Delme and Carwyn.

"But it's not comparable because you can't repeat history. You reflect on your past but live in the present and what gives tomorrow its unique flavour has more to do with what happens in the future than what went before. The way tours are these days, I can't see too many more opportunities arising for club sides to play the best. The game is changing and, to my mind,

there will be a sadness about tomorrow's game as well as a joy. It may be the end of something."

Llanelli know all about mixed emotions. Up until last month, when a desperate share issue finally raised sufficient cash to drive the financial wolf from the door, the Scarlets were playing their rugby under the threat of imminent bankruptcy.

The gloom was almost tangible as the Scarlets tried manfully to raise themselves for matches played in a morgue-like atmosphere at a three-quarterson the terraces spoke volumes. Llanelli is, after all, proud of its reputation as the most passionate rugby town in Britain.

"Our recent past has been well documented, and I don't want to dwell on it," Jenkins said. "Tomorrow, though, is what dreams are made of. It represents an opportunity for us to celebrate our emergence from all that financial pressure and to hold our heads high as a club with a future. I live in the

town and am seen as a part of

empty stadium and those gaps it and people are definitely talking to me about Llanelli rugby with a genuine enthusiasm that perhaps wasn't there at the start of the season.

"As rugby people, we're obviously losing some of the qualities we once held dear. The short, Test-dominated nature of modern touring is symptomatic of that and some of the old cameraderie is going, no doubt about it. When I played, clubs were rugby-minded, not business-minded, and the game belonged to everyone. In the

professional age, there are going to be victims. God knows,

Photograph: Western Mail

we were nearly one ourselves. "But this sort of match is irrestible, the very essence of rugby, amateur or professional. Television has made this new generation of All Blacks more familiar to the average supporter than even the greatest names of the past and to have them here at Stradev, to see them and to face them in the flesh, is wonderfully exciting. You can't ask for anything better than the

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE

Fright times ahead for the power generation

When the nine remaining yachts line up on the grid for the start of the second leg of the Whithread Round the World Race tomorrow, the nerves of the 108 crew members will be as taut as any on a Formula One track.

However, as Stuart Alexander reports from Cape Town, the difference will be that. instead of knowing it will all be over in under two hours, these competitors will be lucky if they can relax at any time over the next two weeks.

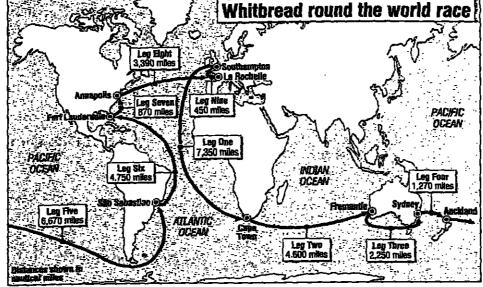
The 4,600 miles through the roller coaster waves of the Southern Ocean to Fremantie have always been punishing ones. This time the horseis greater, the stakes in terms of commercial sponsors and

the level of competition is tougher, and the reputations of some high-profile skippers more exposed.

Risk management will be high on the agenda as predictions of new distance records are tempered by a need to avoid going too far. The first leg from Southampton has already shown that these 60ft thoroughbreds can be even more of a handful than had been forecast.

The power generated by a new generation of hulls and the sails which drive them means the boats are on the edge for more of the time. But the name of the game is also pushing things to the limit and this run to Australia is one of the two legs that can produce big gains or big losses

One of the striking features of the pre-leg build-up here has been the amount of time spent by the crews on their masts. Many were repairing damage. though none came as close to major failure as Toshiba. Paul Standbridge, who took over as power the boats can generate skipper following the dramatic departure of Chris Dickson, found a four-inch crack about what they expect are higher. half-way up. "There was only



24 hours left in it," he said, "less in the wrong conditions." The first-leg winner, EF Language, has fixed a bend fur-

ther down, while Merit Cup had to correct a badly chewed top section.

All the yachts will carry the maximum 12 crew, whereas half went with only 11 on the first leg. They all know how

draining the physical demands can be, but this leg has the addition problem of the cold. Extra rations will be carried and

much food eaten before the off. Toshiba's Standbridge has a lot to prove in the role he has always coveted as a Whitbread skipper. When he arrived in Fremantle on the previous Whitbread, he was asked if at

any time on a very hairy leg he had been truly frightened. "No," came the classic reply, "it was much worse than that." Once again there will be frayed nerves as well as frayed kit.
WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD
RACE Standings after first legs: 1 SF Language 12spits: 2 Ment Cup 110: 3 innovation (whereir 97: 4 Sisk Cut 84; 5 Chessel
Racing 72; 6 Testiba 60; 7 America's Challange 48; 8 Swedish Match 36; 9 EF Education 24; 10 Brunel Sunergy 12.

Death before dishonour approach grips the fleet

Those Whitbread boats nursing battered reputations are keen to get to sea again but, as the skipper of Merit Cup reveals, some crews could be in danger of overstepping the mark.

There are a number of boats here in Cape Town who are only too aware of what they will have to do on the second leg. The mood around the race village is that bad results in the first leg must be rectified.

Although this leg is only half the distance of the first, it carries the same number of points. The priority is to be in the first three. This is not a cop out in advance for not winning the leg. Consistency is the name of the game - consistently high placings in all nine legs.

For Merit Cup, however, it is not a time to be taking chances - no death before dishonour. There's no point in blowing the boat apart, al-



BY GRANT **DALTON**

though I sense some of our rivals may end up trying too hard. We managed to give the crew three days off last weekend, but overall, the pace has not slackened. The three weeks in Cape Town have been no holiday. We have replaced the broken gear, re-

we start the leg fitter and stronger than before. We have reviewed our sails. hopefully plugging the gap in our close reaching ability that became apparent on the first leg. I think Lawrie Smith put

paired the sails and we believe

his finger on it when he said Silk Cut and Merit Cup's sail inventories were too conservative. By that he meant that we lacked some of the specialist sails that operate at peak performance in a narrow band of wind angles and speed.

Some sails have very narrow operating peaks, but they can deliver a significant speed advantage; in some instances half a knot. That's a huge difference. Over 24 hours it's 12 miles and over 14 days it's 168 miles.

The withdrawal of America's Challenge because of cash problems has allowed us to add

Jared Henderson to the crew. The second leg has fewer tactical choices for navigators. The first decision is how aggressively you dive south looking for the stronger westerlies. Then you have to decide how late you leave the push north to Fremantle.

No one will sail the shorter Great Circle route - it's too far north. The fleet will go further south to catch the stronger breeze but where the distance to sail is greater. The question is how far south.

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Holiday, Teles - 11-GM Valoria til ti league un co BO 150 ---Leag. . . . -ណាក<u>ារ។</u> ។ Barr the Contract being a process efantic : Monther- in ___ Bonds Lasters

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Newcastle balked by blunt front line

Barring mathematical improbabilities, **Newcastle's Champions'** League challenge ended with their 2-0 home defeat against PSV Eindhoven on

Wednesday. Simon Tumbull gauges the muted reaction on Tyneside.

It is just as well that Kenny Dalglish knows that it's good to talk. Otherwise, the sound of silence would have been deafening at St James' Park late on Wednesday night.

Virtually en bloc. Dalglish's players turned defiantly deaf ears as they rushed through the

media interview area outside the main entrance. Only John Barnes was prepared to unseal his lips and answer a question.

emergency stand-in for Andy

Cole at centre-forward. And it

was the same when Newcastle's

Uefa Cup challenge petered out

last season, with Robert Lee

obliged to lead the attack

against Monaco at St James'.

Newcastle have struck it unlucky

with injury-stricken or sus-

pended strikers in Europe. It did

not help on Wednesday that

they were also without the cen-

tral midfield axis customarily

provided by Lee and David

Batty, but in the continuing

absence of Faustino Asprilla and

Alan Shearer they continued to

look blunt at what ought to be

media to Coventry, in the

metaphorical sense, because

of what they perceive to have

been unfair criticism in recent

weeks. But on they themselves

go to Coventry, in the physical

sense, on Saturday with the

Novocastrian natives becoming

more that a little restless after

Steve Wraith, who chris-

tened his fanzine Number Nine

in honour of Newcastle's tra-

ditional centre-forward power,

said: "The fans' patience is

wearing thin. If we want to get

back into the Champions'

League next season we have to

bring in a new striker now or we

will have no chance of finish-

ing first or second to qualify."

trick launched Newcastle's

Champions' League campaign

with a memorable victory

against Barcelona in September,

is expected to be back in front-

line action by the time the

Toon Army visit the Nou Camp

on 26 November. The Colom-

bian might well soar to sublim-

inal heights against the Catalans

the Magpies and their Euro-

nean ambitions have been

Asprilla, whose headed hat-

a fifth match without a win.

The players have sent the

their sharp end.

Three times in four seasons

"Obviously, we're very disappointed," Newcastle's standcaptain said revealingly. without breaking stride.

It was left to Dalglish to do the talking, at the obligatory post-match press conference for the two managers. Asked if his team lacked focus up front, he said: "You've got to give credit to the lads who played. They gave everything for the cause."

It was the same in Bilbao three years ago when Newcastle's Uefa Cup "adventure," as Kevin Keegan called it, came to grief with Steve Watson, the then England Under 21 rightback, pressed into service as an

Padovano deal collapses but Merson remains at Riverside

Padovano has turned down a move to Middlesbrough. Undeterred by the unbappy experience of taking Juve's Fabrizio Ravanelli to the Riverside. Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, negotiated a £1.6m fee but could not agree personal terms with the 30-year-old, Perhaps news travels fast in Italy...

Paul Merson will stay at the club, however, even if Middlesbrough fail to win promotion back to the Premiership. The £4.5m summer signing from Arsenal, who has been linked with clubs in the south, said: "It's flattering that clubs want me but Middlesbrough bought me and that's it."

John McGinlay has returned to the First Division. The Bolton striker yesterday became Bradford City's record ing in towout deal. The

The Juventus striker Michele two-and-a-half year contract. and will make his debut at Swindon tomorrow.

> His new boss, the Bradford manager Chris Kamara, can be considered doubly fortunate since he has avoided punishment from the Football Association, despite being found guilty of misconduct after he was sent from the dug-out at Portsmouth last month.

> Bournemouth's hopes of signing permanently their Norwegian Under-21 international, Andreas Lundt, on loan from FK Molde rest with Wimbledon.

The Cherries have agreed terms with Molde for Lundt but the final decision lies with Molde's owners, who have a financial stake in Wimbledon. The Premiership club have first once again, but it already seems refusal on the Norwegian club's

Scottish international signed a _____ Andrew Martin grounded for another season. NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

Good times return to Barrow

Halifax Town, the leaders of the GM Vauxhall Conference until they suffered their first league defeat of the season at Cheltenham last weekend, are not the only former Football League club in good form this campaign.

Barrow lost their League place in 1972 and were last in the Conference in 1992. After being replaced in the Fourth Division by Hereford it took them 12 years to taste success of any kind. They won the Northern Premier (now Uni-Bond) League in 1984 and again in 1989. The following year the FA Trophy was lifted at Wembley, but since then the

Cumbrian club have under-Now, though, happy days are

back at Holker Street. Barrow have an eight-point lead at the top of the UniBond Premier Division, which they will extend into double figures if they win tomorrow at second-placed Boston United in non-League football's match of the day. The top six attendances of

the Premier Division season have all been at Holker Street. Barrow have kept nine clean sheets in 17 games while Neil Morton is among the league's leading scorers with 10 goals. Also, thanks partly to the money invested in the club by chair-

man Stephen Vaughan, a Liverpool businessman, key men have remained loyal to Barrow.

Dave Higgins, for many years a stalwart in the Tranmere Rovers defence until his release in the summer, rejected an opportunity to return to the League with Chester.

Of equal significance was the decision of Barrow's manager, Owen Brown, the former Carlisle and Tranmere striker, to turn down an offer to take charge at Stafford Rangers. "I would have been better off financially going to Stafford," Brown said, "but I wanted to finish the job off at Barrow." - Rupert Metcalf

Atcheson no longer has to grin and Bear it

Two weeks ago, Great Britain's new full-back had no club and an uncertain future. Now, he tells Dave Hadfield, he is ready for the worst the Australians can throw at him at Old Trafford tomorrow.

The sun has suddenly come out on what had threatened to be a cold, dark winter for Paul Atcheson. One of the potential casualties of the grizzly end that befell the Oldham Bears, the 24-yearold full-back did not know what the future held for him. But now he has a highlydesirable move to St Helens and tomorrow he becomes Great Britain's full-back.

Things have certainly looked up, but Atcheson knows that the transition from redundancy at relegated and liquidated Oldham to forming Britain's last line of defence against the mighty Australians is a demanding one.

Atcheson, however, has learnt resilience during his career. There was, for instance, the day when the then Wigan chairman, Jack Robinson, called him into his office and told him he was not going to be offered a new contract, even though he had become the club's regular full-back following his signing from Widnes.

"I can still picture the office on that day. I had no choice about leaving Wigan; I was pushed," he says.

mismanagement and lack of and the Great Britain - and



Fast back: Good times are returning for Great Britain's new full-back after fighting a Photograph: Varley/Wilkinson losing cause with the bad news Bears

depth in the playing staff at the club saw them lose everything.

"I'm still owed a fair bit of money, but everything is working out now," he says. "I'm very happy with the move to St Helens.

On top of that, Atcheson now has a chance at full Test level. Although he had performed well in a hopeless cause at Oldham and played regularly for Wales he was at the back of a queue headed by Bradford's Stuart Spruce when it came to

Pushed to Oldham, in Great Britain's full-back tob. fact, which did not seem too But Spruce's ankle injury bad until this year, when the will keep him out of the series former Oldham - coach, Andy Goodway, has decided that, at Old Trafford, he needs the attacking threat of Jason Robinson on the right wing, rather than in the full-back role he filled at Wembley.

Goodway knows Atcheson's qualities well: "He has the right capabilities and the right attitude. He brings size, strength and speed to the side. We are putting players in at the deep end - and we will see what they

Atcheson is not even considering the possibility that he might not be up to the chal-

les and I've got plenty of height underneath the high ball." Spending all but the last few

minutes on the bench, Atcheson was ideally placed to observe what was going wrong at Wembley. To his eye, it all came down to basics. They were 100 quick for us at the play-theball," he says of the Australians. "They were making 50 or 60 yards with every set of tackles and you can't win if they're doing that all the time. The first job is to stop them making those easy yards.

If that job is not done, Atcheson knows full well that lenge. "I don't miss many tack- he could face a busy afternoon.

Rusedski rampant despite sickness

Greg Rusedski yesterday shrugged off illness and advanced into the quarter-finals of the Stockholm Open with a 6-4, 7-6 win over the Frenchman, Lionel Roux. The second seed joined his fellow Briton. Tim Henman, in the final eight after spending two days in bed suffering from a stomach virus.

Rusedski needed just 68 minutes, producing 14 aces in the first set and losing a single point in his last four service games. He will now play either the defending champion, Thomas Enqvist, or Magnus Larsson.

The world No 5 showed he intended to go flat-out against Florida-based Roux, 71st in the world, as he went full-Steam through the warm-up. Rusedski earned a break in the ninth game of the opening set and served out for 6-4 after 29

The second set stayed with serve but Rusedski rallied from 1-4 down in the tie-break, fired over a service winner to yield a match point and hit a winning volley for the victory.

Henman faces a quarterfinal today against the top seed and US Open champion. Patrick Rafter, of Australia. Rusedski's service was his

biggest weapon, accounting for 20 aces. He lost only seven points on service - two in the second set - and his first eight points of the match came from a barrage of aces.

"I was pleased with my serve it made the difference today. he said, "I cannot complain. I felt terrible for the past two days, but I just stayed in bed and

Rusedski refused to look ahead to a meeting with Henman. "I don't even want to think about a possible final with Henman ~ there are too many good players to get past. I'm excited about Hanover, but I'm not worried about expending too much energy here. I'll be going back to bed today to rest some more. I've got a tough draw ahead of me and I want

<u>:n</u>

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25

:n

to be ready."

The number of countries

Monie undaunted by task ahead

He is four years older and has a few more grey hairs, but it was almost like old times as John Monie returned to

the club he made close to unbeatable. Dave Hadfield saw the

man who made Wigan synonymous with winning arrive back at Central Park.

In his usual understated way. the quiet Australian they sometimes call The Iceman had a chilling message for of the castle. My job is to try of his failure at Auckland. The British rugby league.

"I'm a better coach now than the one who left here four years ago," he said. Considering his record of 14 major trophies during his four seasons in charge, he has given himself quite an act to follow.

"It's a bit like coming home," he said. "I always thought that if I came back, it would be to Wigan, although I'm not kidding myself that I'm coming back to a side with Gene Miles, Andy Gregory and all those great players.

"We've slipped in recent years and there are new kings to get Wigan back to the top." The radically changed sit-

uation at Central Park, where Monie will know less than half of the players, means that there is no danger of feeling that he has come back to do the same job again.

Although he feels that there is enough talent, there will be some judicious recruitment as well as the departures of some not able to meet his rigorous requirements.

ing Wigan ensure that he returns with a hunger resharpened by the frustration

or Hamilton United v Fulhern or Abingdon Town; Wycombe Wanderpus or Cardiff City v Welling United or Dulwith Hamilet; Woking or Brighton & Hove Albion v Gillingham.

His experiences since leav-

club sacked him halfway through last season - the first time that has happened to him in 17 years as a coach. That gives him some sense

of the way Eric Hughes will be feeling today. The Wigan board delivered the bad news to Hughes yesterday morning - via a note on his car windscreen. It was a miserable day in

Wigan, but there was a noticeable lack of the crowds of fans who welcomed Monie's first arrival in 1989. That is symbolic of the task ahead; he has to win not only matches, but also win back hearts and minds.

TODAY'S NUMBER

who have accepted invitations to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, next year Confirmation from 14 more is expected; the two remaning Commonwealth nations, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, are currently suspended.

SPORTING DIGEST

England falter on way to win

Bill Colwill Egypt . England ..

England's new hockey coach, the Australian Barry Dancer, was unhappy with his side's performance in Cairo yesterday, despite their 6-3 victory to lead the five-Test series 3-0. Dancer aid: "It was a scrappy performance in which we lost midfield control but won the game."

After Russell Garcia bad launched a good start with a penalty stroke conversion in the fourth minute, England lost their way, allowing Belal Ibrahim to score twice and put Egypt 2-1 ahead by the 11th minute. As the teams struggled to get

FOOTBALL RESULTS

midfield control, a move between Garcia and Justin Pidcock ended with Ben Sharpe putting England level in the 18th minute. Garcia and Calum Giles assured a 4-2 interval lead. Sharpe's return from a tem-

porary suspension in the 55th minute signalled the first of two further goals from Giles inside four minutes. With just two minutes remaining, Ibrahim completed his hat-trick.

COMPICIEU IIIS III II III.

ENGLAND: S. Masson (Reading): A Humphrey (Cannock), J. Wyatt. (Reading), J. Halls (F.D.M.) The Hepus), B. Bernies (East Circhand); D. Woods (Souringale), J. Pidcock (Cannock), B. Sharpe (Carnock); C. Mayar (Cannock), R. Garcia (F.D.M. capt); B. Chatchley (Cannock), R. Garcia (F.D.M. capt); B. Chatchley (Cannock), Substitutes used: C. Giles (V.Z. The Hague), Manpreet Kochar (Reading), B. Wissigh (Souringale), D. Half (Guidord), and B. Wissigh (Souringale), D. Half (Guidord). ing), B Weugh (Southgate), D Half (Guidford), EGYPT: Hattern Gernat; Hossem Hassem; Sayd Moussa, Adman El Sayed, Armo Fatah; Abd El Kratok (capit, Yasser Abd El Mon, Mo-hamed Sayed; Belai Ibrahm, Mohamed Sarmi, Mas Sayed, Substitutes used: Mah-moud Sarnic, Ahmed Zenhom, Erned Amena, Umpires: Tarek Moustafa (Eg) 8, A Hoyes (Eng) NBA; Nami 90 Boston 74; Charlotte 110 Dalles 103; Indians 99 Depoit 87; New Jersey 112 Gold-en State 98; Allente 93 Philadelphia 98; Chica-go 94 Orlando 91; San Antonio 87 Vancouser 79; Houston 124 LA Cippeirs 110. EUROLLEAGUE Group C (Ankara): Ullempor (Tur) 80 Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 81.

Ryan Rhodas will meet Canada's Otis Grant for the vacant World Boxing Organisation middleweight title at the Ponds Forge Leisure Can-tre in Sheffield, his home town, on 13 December. Cricket

The Professional Cricketers' Association have been forced to arrange an Extraordinary General Meeting on 11 May after strong reservations were expressed regarding the England and Weles Cricket Boards decisions on the

P L Symbox not out
P S de Villies b 8 de Silve
P R Adems not out
Extras (b-6 lb-2 w-7 nb-3)
Total (for 9, 50 overs) Felt of wickets: 1-12 2-80 3-154 4-165 5-200 6-272 7-274 8-289 9-308. Bowling: Usernage 9-057-1 (nt/2 w3); S de Si-va 9-151-2 (w1); Chermaserna 10-0-45-3; Chandena 10-0-65-1 (nt/1 w2); A de Siva 9-0-61-2 (w1); Arabid 4-0-24-0 SRI LANKA

a) S Aspettu c Polock b Kusener

R Amodé C Richendson b Polock

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I, de Sike bw b de Villers

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Llyangge c and b Klusenis
Kt. de Silva not out
titus (b-3 w-17 nb-4)
tal (for 9, 50 overs)

Football The Derlington defender Jason De Vos has been called into Canada's squad for Sunday's World Cup qualifier against the United States in Vancouver.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION
Marchester City v Huddersfield (7.45) SECOND DIVISION Oldham v Gillingham (7.45) .

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE Newcastle Eagles v Greater London Leopards (730). UNI-BALL TROPHY: Shaffield Sharks v

The Chelsea defender Franck Leboeuf has been recalled by France for the friendly against Scotland in Seint Etienne next Wednesday. The 29-year-old centre-half is joined by Ar-senal midfielder Emmanuel Petit. The Australia coach Terry Venables has called up three players from his club, Portsmouth, for the World Cup has called up times players from as calle Portsmouth, for the World Cup play-off next month. The former England coach has named the striker John Alois and the midfielders Robbie Enes and Craig Foster in a 28-men squad for the two-legged play-off. FA YOUTH CUP Second-hund dawn: Button Ablon or Bedworth United v Notinghan Forest, berly County or Blackpool v Beston, Leicaster City v Liverpool; Buy v Peterborough Urited or Domeaster Robers, Sandhers, Sheffeld United v Person, Leicaster City v Liverpool; Buy v Peterborough Urited or Domeaster Robers, Sandherson; Sheffeld United v Franmare Roberts, Sandherson v Blandhow Theory Town v Sciolo City or Wolver, Sheffeld United v Tranmare Roberts, Sandherson v Blandhow Roberts V Charlen Atheiot; You Colones City v Motion & Hersham or Rushden & Demonder v Charlen Atheiot; Glocuester City or Southermpton v Somersham Town or Residen & Demonder v Charlen Atheiot, Glocuester City or Southermpton v Somersham Town or Residen Roberts, Christmeton Town; Norwich City v Crystal Palace; Endiat v Swendon City or Colones or Town of Brandhow Roberts (United v Ansend; Town or Charles V Swendon City or Colonester City or Colonester City or Colonester United v Ansend; Town or Brandhow Swendon City v Liston Town; Phymouth Argyle Coverny City v Liston Town; Phymouth Argyle

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Landing first-round scores: 69 E Medic
(LSI, 70 T Purely (LSI, J Smith (LSI, Heich YuStru (Esi, Chen Ibo-Chung (Esi), Lin Chit-Chen
(Esi, D Boulot (Ho), Kim Hong-Six (Kor), 77 Kuo
Chit-Haling (Esi), Lin Tere-Shun (Esi), Morroring (LSI, Lin Keng-Chi (Esi), Wang Te-Cheng
(LSI, Sing Ken-Chi (Esi), Tamp (KuoCheng (Esi), Chen Lieng-Hei (Esi), Lish Westle
(Aust), 72 Ho Cris-Feng (Lei), Merden Mersel
(Smit), Lin Lin Chin (Esi), Kohal Model, Landin
(LSI, Teste), States (Sco), Cho Chut-Sang
(Kor), Leis Lei-Hesi (Ro), 73 Yeng Kun-Yan (Esi),
Method Harade (Japan), ice hockey Newcastle Cobras have replaced their coach, Rick Brebant, following a disastrous run which has seen the north-east club lose all seven matches in the Superleague. Chris Norton, Brebant's assistant, will take charge until a replacement is found. NHL: Dates 5 Physburgh 2: Carolina 3 Detroit 1; New Jersey 4 Physics 2: Montreal 4 Physics 4 Richita 2: Montreal 4 Physics 4 Calgary 3: NY Pangers 4 Cobrado 2; Anahelm 5 Iampa Bay 2. Motor racing

Michael Schumacher will have to go to London and not Paris next Tues-day to defend himself against the charge that he tried to knock Jacques

Villeneuve out of the European Grand Prix last month. The International Automobile Federation have moved the hearing to London because of the lorry drivers' strike, which is disrupt-ing travel in France. **Paralympics**

Bonn has beaten five other cities to become the new permanent head-quarters of the International Para-lympic Committee. Rugby League

Switton Lions were forced to free 11 players vesterday and scrap their reserve side in order to meet the setary Cap for next season. St Helens have signed the prop Mike Loughlin, the 16-year-old brother of Bradford Bulls' former Great Britain cartire Paul, from local amateurs St He-lens Crusadiers on a five-year contract. Castleford have put the second row forward len Smales and the utility back Jamie Benn on the transfer list but the second row forward Lee Harland has signed a new two-year contract with

MEN'S WORLD OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Kusha Lumpan) Second record: A Graugh (Ma) of C Walter (Engl 9-5 07-5 5: 25 5-5 5: 40 5-5; M Caims (Engl bi S Parke (Engl 5-7) 5-14 3-5 5-8; A Baraca (Engl) bi M Crastener (Engl) 5-70 5-3 5-9; P Mand (Sco) to D Evens (Ma) 2-5

5-7 5-5 5-7, P Mershell (Eng) bi D Jenson (Aus) 5-6 5-6 5-13: J Power in A Kehn (cusi-ited) (Pail) 5-9 5-6 5-4, R Eyles (Aus) in C Wapnick (cusified) (SA) 5-17 5-13-5 5-8 A Hill (Aus) in G Ryding (Can) 17-5 15-9 5-8 **Swimming**

Franziska van Almsick, the world 200 metres champion, returned to competition in disappointing fashion yesterday, falling to qualify for the 100m freestyle relay in next year's world championships. The 19-year-old Van Almsick, swimming in her first major event since sustaining severe hand injuries in a motorcycle accident last May, was sixth in 5736sec in the 100m treestyle at the German trials in Re-

STOCKHOLM OPEN MEN'S TOURNAMENT Second round; G Russdsta (GB) bt L Roun (Fr) 6-4.7-6, J Bjortanian (Swe) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-4.7-5 6-47-5
HELLMANN'S MEN'S CUP (Sentiago, Chile)
Second round: M Puerta (Arg) bt J A Viloca
(Sp) 6-4-6-7. R Vissel, IC2 Repl bt A Gaudero:
[10] 6-47-5; M Crean (Ger) bt J Alorino (Sp) 6-4
1-57-5; M Pilippin (Lira) bt A Merrin (Sp) 7-5
6-3.

63.

AMERITECH CLIP WOMEN'S TOURHAMENT (Chicago) First round: Yayuk Basuki Bridon) bit U Osterioh (US) 6-0.6-2; S. Appelmens: (Ba) bit M. J. Fermandaz (US) 6-2.6-7; A. Supyama (Japan) bit T. Sryder (US) 6-4.6-3. Second round: M. Seleo (US) bit M. Grzybowskia (Pol) 9-6.6-3.6-2. (KREMEUN CUP (Moscow) Quarter-finals: W. Bick (Zinh) bit Dylack (Cz. Rep) 6-1.6-2; W. Back (Zinh) bit Dylack (Cz. Rep) 6-1.6-2; P. Korda (Cz. Rep) bit A. O'Bineri (US) 7-5.6-3.

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM. Draw date: 5/11/97. The winning numbers: 1, 4, 6, 9, 32, 38. Bonus number: 46. Total Sales: £28,003,903. Prize Fund: £12,601,756 (45% of ticket sales).

AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER TOTAL EACH TIER Match 6 (Jackpot) £1,012,358 £4,049,432 Match 5 plus bonus ball £155,747 £1,245,976 Match 5 409 £778.736 24,867 Match 4 £1,690,956 481,438 £4.814.380 506.726 TOTALS £12,579,480

IT DOUGH SE YOU. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY in the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail

Bell's Scottish Langue Second Ohisiant Cyrlebank 4 Queen of the South 0. Press & Journal Highland Langue: Deveronate 1 Naim Courty 0. Dr Bartens Lasgue Cup First round second legstingbourne 3 Cranley 5 (agg; 6-8); Webech 1 Granthern 4 (agg; 1-5). Ishmisen Lasgue Cauerdian Insurance Cup second round: Harbow 2 (aronley 3 FA Carlebarg Vesse first-round replayer: Portilisera 2 Swindon Supermarine 1; Newbory 0 Endsleigh 1, Jesseon Eastern Lasgue Premier Division: Sohem 1 Newmarket 1; Stowmarket 0 Febratowe 1, Jesseon Wesseox Leegus? Cowes 5, ports 8 Ryde Sports 0; Eastingh 0 Gosport Borough 1 Winstonlead Kent Lasgue Pirst Division: Confritien 0 Cheman 2 Screwik Direct Leegue Pre-WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Champions' League Group A: Bonusus Dormund 2 Parma 0; Galabasaray 2 Sparta Prague 0, Group E: Feyernord 1 Manchester Unt 3: Juven-hus 3 Kosco 2 Group C: Baccelone 0 Dynamo Kev 4; Newcastle Und 0 PSV Endhoven 2 Group D: Forto 1 Pasenborg Tronchern 1; Olympiakos 0 Real Marrid 0, Group E: Fix Gotherhung 2 Sevintas 1. Paris St-Germain 3 Bayern Munch 1 Group P: Bayer Leverkusen 4 Sporting Lisbon 1; Lerse 0 Monaco 1 Usefa Cup second round according Andertocht ? Schalle 04 2 (agg. 1-37, Nationalde Sporting Lisbon 1; Sernat Divisions Maddesbrough 1 Portsmouth 1; Swindons 3 Guees Park Rangers 1 Third Devisions Brighton & Hove Albren 0 Barnet 3.

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Wigen Athetic 1 Stoke City 5, Group Four:
Wigen Athetic 1 Stoke City 5, Group ShaRoderhem Utd 1 Blackpool 1; Trammere
Rovers 6 Scarborough 3, Avon Insurance
Constitution Fest Divisions Southampton 1 Totenham Hotspur 1; Westlord 2
Queen's Park Rangers 1; Wirpladon 3 Luton 0, Fa Youth Cup First rounds Smowsbury Town 5 Boldmere St Michaels 1;
Bradtord City 8 Nureation Borough 0; AFC
Bournemouth 0, Gillingham 3; Huddersfield 1 York City 2, Dutch League: MVV
Masstricht 4 Volendam 1.

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Bohemiens v University College Dublin, FA YOUTH CUP First round: Burnley v Wrechem (725).

Ferguson faces Uefa censure as Irwin misses six weeks

Alex Ferguson's fury at the rugged tactics of Feyenoord on Wednesday is unlikely to subside in the light of news that Uefa could investigate the Manchester United manager's touchline confrontation with his **Dutch** counterpart on Wednesday. Guy Hodgson

Anyone who has seen Alex Ferguson's anger take full flight will testify it is not a comfortable experience. Ruddy with rage, he

reports.

will put his face close to his target and vent his emotions with an explosion of words.

Geent Meijer, the caretaker coach of Feyenoord, would have got Ferguson on full power on Wednesday but for the intervention of United's assistant manager, Brian Kidd, who held his boss back from a potentially damaging confrontation.

Even with Kidd's moderating influence, Meijer appeared to spit his chewing gum at the United manager while Ferguson was furious at Feyenoord's vindictiveness which culminated in Denis Irwin being carried off with a knee injury eight minutes from the end of the English champions' 3-1 win.

Insinuating that Meijer lacked "principles", he described his ninking as "insane".

Irwin will be out for six weeks after Paul Bosvelt's tackle. The full-back had an X-ray on his left knee yesterday and will undergo further tests to assess the full extent of the damage and determine whether there is ligament damage.

Ferguson stopped his players exchanging shirts at the end of the match and condemned several other harsh challenges that included Gary Neville and Henning Berg being elbowed in the face. "The referee was in a very lenient mood," he said. "I think he could have given a couple of red cards."

All of which will be of in- him. His will is the reason why terest to Uefa, But European football's governing body is bound to study reports from the referee, Hungary's Sandor Puhl, Uefa delegate Herman Selbherr, referee's observer Kare Inge Linboe and the fourth official, Attila Hanacsek, before considering action. "Once we

have seen them," a Uefa official confirmed, "we can decide whether there is anything we need to look at further." What needed no confirmation was Ferguson's rage to succeed. At 56 (his birthday is New Year's Eve) and already certain of a listing among the great managers, some men would

be seeking a quieter life. Not

his team get better. No player will get complacent while he can still be genuinely frightened by the anger of the man who picks

And at the moment there seems to be little argument that United are getting better. Last season there was a feeling they won the Premiership almost by default, profiting from the failings of others, but this time they have struck the domestic front early, and are the only team in the Champions' League with a 100 per cent record.

When Ferguson did calm down enough to allow himself quiet satisfaction, he saw ample evidence in Rotterdam of

team was not to his liking at the start but they upped a gear at his behest and, hey presto, they were three goals in front. Maybe that's part of the learning process," he said, "handling matches that have a slow pace to them." He will have been happy, too, that only Paul Scholes lost his composure amid the flying Dutchmen to

get a yellow card. No one has improved more dramatically than Andy Cole, although his machine-gun burst probably owes more to forgetfulness than learning. He has been shackled by a fear of failure, but stumbling upon some confidence has helped him

improvement. The tempo of the accrue eight goals in three matches. The man who found every way to miss suddenly does not know how to.

We were a bit fortunate with the first goal," Ferguson said, "although it was a marvellous pass and Andy Cole's pace made it. He troubled them all night. He was always a threat." As Cole is able to keep a

striker of such rich promise as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on the substitutes' bench, yesterday's reports that United had inquired about the asking price of Dynamo Kiev's Andrei Shevchenko was just that - an idle inquiry. He could not play in the Champions' League this season anyway and only an

incorrigible gambler would pay £12m for a relatively unitried striker, notwithstanding his has trick against Barcelona of Wednesday.

If Cole is becoming the fully-valued £7m man, then Ferguson has strength in depth in that department, just as he has an embarrassment of quality full-backs. Irwin, whose injury is less serious than was first feared, will miss United's match at Highbury on Sunday but his deputy is England's Phil Neville, while John Curtis and Michael Clegg are next in the queue.

Arsenal, United's nearest rivals but stuttering without Dennis Bergkamp, can only look and weep.

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Kiev protest over poor treatment that backfired

When Barcelona subjected their Champions' League visitors, Dynamo Kiev, to shabby treatment this week, all they did was fire up the Ukrainians and sow the seeds of a disastrous defeat. Rostislav Khotin reports on the background to the Spaniards' elimination from Europe.

Dynamo Kiev have lodged a formal protest with Uefa over their treatment in Barcelona for Wednesday's European Cup Champions' League Group C

Training bust-up disrupts Celtic

been badly disrupted by a training ground bust-up between Tosh McKinlay and the Swedish international sinker Larsson, yesterday.

The two clashed during a five-a-side game, with the incident apparently resulting in Larsson sustaining a bloody nose. It is understood that McKinlay, a Scottish international who has lost his place recently to the Frenchman, ian champions were now a match for Europe's finest. The Dynamo team were

However, the Kiev side said

that the poor hospitality had

helped them turn the tables and

hand the Spanish League lead-

ers a 4-0 thrashing at the Nou

Lobanovsky, a dour discipli-

narian who rarely betrays any

satisfaction, said putting seven

unanswered goals past

Barcelona in the space of two

weeks proved that the Ukrain-

The Dynamo coach Valery

held up for two hours by customs and immigration officials at Barcelona airport on Tuesday, given a sub-standard training pitch and then ordered off another ground by Spanish police, a Dynamo spokesman,

Alexei Semenenko, said.

Celtic's preparations for to- Stéphane Mahé, immediately morrow's Old Firm game have left the training ground without showering or getting changed. Larsson later left the country bound for Sweden, but the

ing to do with the incident at the training ground, but that he was going to attend the funeral of his father-in-law.

The Celtic general manager, Jock Brown, admitted an incident had taken place but insisted: "Morale in the camp could not be better."

But the disruption to Dynamo's preparations backfired as it added anger to Kiev's determination to consolidate their grip on the "group of death", and knock Barcelona out of the European Cup.

"I don't have to tell you what the mood was after all those problems." Semenenko said. adding that Dynamo officials, among them the former president of Ukraine, were given poor seats. "Barcelona wanted to scalp us," he said. "But they took their own scalp."

Dynamo, 3-0 up by half-time thanks to an Andrei Shevchenko hat-trick, coasted home with a fourth goal from Sergei Rebrov against a Barcelona side reduced to 10 men early in the second half when Sergi was sent off.

The Ukrainians won an ovation from those Spanish fans who had not drifted away long before the end.

"We showed will and character and have proved we can play as equals with the great names of European soccer," Lobanovsky said.

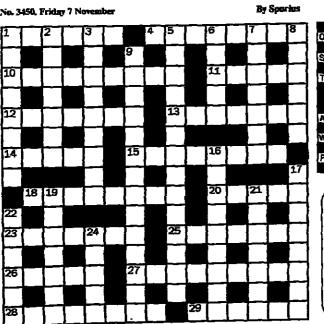
from four games only by two late Newcastle United goals, Dynamo lead the group with 10 points, three ahead of PSV Einhoven, who travel to Kiev for a potential group decider on 26 November.

Newcastle's striking deficiencies, page 29



Barcelona's Rivaklo (right) attempts to avoid the close attentions of Oleg Luzniy of Dynamo Kiev at the Nou Camp on Wednesday

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



ACROSS Clothworker making best of dodgy breakfast (6) Zest for life - see it in Mediterranean country (8)

10 Ballet dancing also requir-ing broad, level area (9) 11 Take in dress, having got bigger? (5) 12 Pinpoints changes to scale (7)
Welcome break especially needed in ceremonial ob-

servance (7) 14 Poles entertained in bish-

p's office showing taste?

15 Contracted to clothe king 2 in purple and scarlet (8)
18 Reinforce lock following 3 objection (8)
20 Small carnivore going after
Channel Islands surgeon

Leading lady takes drugs 25 One's required for audition, naturally (7) Superfluous ornament

makes Father sick (5) Dyestuff Greek character's kept in container of solid aluminium (9)
28 Sweet family put in cold

storage? (3,5) Marital relations? (2-4) DOWN Upper-class gentleman riginally wearing a sword

River where Roman originally crossed over (7) Swallow a little mud in river - medical attention Address just below round-

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about, it's reported (8, 6) A foreign soldier's accept-ing English protection (5) Admire unusual doilies (7) American in Kenya, possibly heading east (6) Untruthful kids giving of-

fence? (5, 9)
16 Row about policemen turning up outside Num ber Ten is a digression (9)
17 Loitering outside derelict
multi, needing some sort

of incentive (8) 19 Take a run through country in east - this one? (7) Mountain girl's about to give us flowering plant (7) Look thus, if upset? (6) Endless depression associ-

ated with one dwelling in

the far north? (5)

else," he told Sky's Rugby Club. "I'm tossing up whether or not this will be my last season and I would like to decide before Christmas as to which way I'm going to go. There are people I have to talk to about it; I'm playing well and enjoying it and I feel we're going to

It has not been the best

Seventy-two hours after

confessing to operating

Watford's rugby kings

are being forced to

unthinkable: Michael

retirement. Chris Hewett

Michael Lynagh, the veteran World Cup-winning outside-

half and still among the best

three or four playmaking stand-

offs in the game, will decide be-

fore Christmas whether to call

time on his magnificent career.

opts for pipe and slippers. his

ambitious colleagues at Sara-

cens - joint top of the Pre-

miership - will be faced with a

hole far bigger than the one

blown in the bank account of

their backer, Nigel Wray, by the

seven-figure deficit revealed

Lynagh admitted last night

that he was considering pack-

ing it in at the end of the sea-

son. "There comes a time when

you have to say thanks very

much and go and do something

earlier this week.

If the 34-year-old Australian

contemplate the

Lynagh's early

reports.

losses of £2.2m,

of weeks for Saracens.

have a good season but maybe

Saracens contemplate life

without linchpin Lynagh

that's a good time to get out." Should Lynagh quit in May, he will have played only two of his three contracted seasons. It would leave Sarries with a major personnel problem, especially as they have their sights firmly fixed on a Heineken Cup place next year. Last season, their Heineken challenge started to peter out as soon as Lynagh began to struggle with injury and the European Cup is no place to be without a top-drawer performer in the No 10 shirt.

The fitness problems affecting two other front-line Sarries, Richard Hill and Kyran Bracken, were instrumental in persuading Clive Woodward, the England coach, to delay naming his squad for the Test with Australia tomorrow week and the Emerging England fixture with the All Blacks at

Huddersfield three days later. Both Hill, a prime candidate for the open-side flank, and Bracken, pushing hard at scrumhalf, came through comeback matches against Cambridge University on Tuesday, but Woodward wants them watched at Northampton this weekend.

Both players are likely to feature prominently in this season's Five Nations' Championship, a hardy annual that will soon carry more financial clout than ever before as a result of a new sponsorship deal announced yesterday. Lloyds TSB will pay £12m to attach its name to the 1999 and 2000 tournaments and the group has secured an option for 2001

In addition, Lloyds TSB has agreed to back English. Welsh and Irish home matches in this season's competition as well as the two forthcoming England-

New Zealand Tests, and will also support a number of World Cup qualifying matches next autumn. Allan Hosie, the chairman of the Five Nations committee, described it as a "ground-breaking deal". There has been any amount

of financial "ground-breaking" in recent months and English rugby, in particular, is smiling from ear to car. Nike, Allied Dunbar and Tetley Bitter have all signed multi-million pound contracts and only this week, the Cheltenham and Gloucester group agreed yet another seven-figure deal to fund a new competition to provide 20 leading teams with meaningful rugby during the hectic international programme.

Five Nations cash will be shared equally among the participating countries, although the situation is complicated by a unilateral French sponsorship deal that stretches well into

Argentina are to push for inclusion in the Tri-Nations series, following Italy's success in gaining admission to the Five Nations. The South Americans are concerned that they are becoming the poor relations of southern bemisphere rugby and will lobby influential delegates from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa at a conference in Buenos Aires this weekend.

Lianelli's legends, page 28

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